



# Methods in Study Programme of Nursing According to the European Union

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## Research Article

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Nursing is a specific field of study in the system of study programs. The profile of studies is harmonized with the criteria of EU directives, enhanced by the adoption of the Declaration of Munich. Nurse have applied and used autonomy in practice, decision-making and planning of nursing interventions.

**Aim:** The aim of article is to present of methods the study program of nursing.

**Methods:** Methods for theoretical and practical education in study program of nursing include research papers, projects, case study, seminar presentation, posters, essays, laboratory practice, practical training, continuous clinical practice, summer clinical practice and others.

**Results:** The main topics of core knowledge of the first degree of university studies are based primarily on the theory and practice of nursing. The study program is divided into academic subjects. The standard student workload for one academic year is the sum of 60 credits in full-time study, for three years of standard study it is 180 ECTS.

**Conclusion:** Competence of nurse is the state of having the knowledge, skills, energy, experience and motivation required to respond adequately to the demands of one's professional responsibility.

**Keyword:** Nursing; Study Programme; Methods; Learning Outcomes

**Abbreviations:** EBN: Evidence Based Nursing; EBP: Evidence Based Practice; ECTS: European Credit Transfer System.

## Introduction

Nursing is a field of study in the system of study programs, administered by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports through which the graduate of the study program gains the professional ability/qualification to practice the profession or is prepared to continue in following university studies. The profile of studies is harmonized with the

criteria of EU directives, enhanced by the adoption of the Declaration of Munich, and implemented into the curriculum of educational institutions that provide this training. The Bologna Declaration is binding also for studying nursing at European's universities. Highlighted the need for: nursing education designed so as to be compatible in content, scope and conditions of admission and graduation with developed countries; to meet European standards of education; curriculum designed so as to be oriented not only to the sick, but also in healthy individuals; systematically lead to a change in medical preview of nursing to nursing thinking, thinking caring change to nursing; strengthen and highlight the formal

component of education, strengthen communicative and creative skills, critical thinking and create abilities to solve problems; not only prepare nurses to practice nursing, but also to research, education and management and prepare nurses for taking an active role of nursing in primary care.

Nurses using autonomy in practice, decision-making and planning of nursing interventions. Nurse have applied and used autonomy in practice, decision-making and planning of nursing interventions. Nurse is sufficiently informed about the new developments of science and technology as well as new nursing procedures and to work based on principles Evidence Based Practice (EBP) and Evidence Based Nursing (EBN) [1].

### Aim of Work

The aim of the thesis is to present the study program of nursing in the Slovak Republic, important methods for evaluating study results, conditions and criteria for obtaining credits for students.

### Methods in Nursing

Methodology for theoretical education in study program nursing includes research papers focus on student comprehension, ability to understand material. Projects are method to assess student's creation or innovation abilities. Other methods are case study, seminar presentation, posters, reviews, quizzes, online assessment, essay and other. In the article, we want to present selected methods that we use in the field of study nursing. The profile of studies is harmonized with the criteria of the European directives, enhanced by the adoption of the Declaration of Munich, and implemented into the curriculum of educational institutions that provide this training. Study program of nursing is compiled according to competencies of the Directive 2013/55/EU and in the context of the National Reference Framework, Decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 296/2010 on professional qualification for performance of health service occupation, the method of further education of health professionals, system of specialized fields and system of certified working activities [2].

### Results and Discussion

The completion of university studies of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree in the field of nursing is the defence of the bachelor's dissertation, the oral and practical state exam verifying knowledge, skills, and abilities to solve problems of nursing care within the scope of the professional profile of the graduate of a 1<sup>st</sup> degree of university studies. Successful graduates of first degree are awarded the tile of Bachelor.

The study program of the 2nd degree is focused on acquirement of theoretical and practical knowledge based on the current state of science, technology, or art and on development of skills of their creative application in case of occupation performance or when continuing in university study according to doctoral study program master's degree (title Mgr.) is awarded to the successful graduates of the 2nd degree of university study. Consequently, after successful completion of the 3rd degree of university study they have a possibility to acquire scientific and pedagogical degree of philosophise doctor (title PhD). If nurses meet criteria for habilitation process they acquire scientific and pedagogical degree of docent (title doc.), and to be awarded the scientific and pedagogical degree of professor (title prof.) nurses must meet criteria inevitable for inaugural process.

The study program is divided into academic subjects. The academic subject is formed from a study program unit, or a group of units intended to provide training in the designated area (lecture, workshop, or seminar). Studies include the final dissertation, which, together with its defence constitutes one subject. Defending the final dissertation is on the subjects of the state examination. Each subject is defined by a code and a name. Information on the nature of the subject, teachers, credits and hours, the conditions of its completion and evaluation of learning outcomes, contents and recommended literature is stated in the subject information sheet. The teacher is responsible for updating the data in the subject information sheet at the beginning of the academic year.

Theories or models that have been applied to nursing include Bloom's cognitive taxonomy of learning. Bloom's Taxonomy is classification, so the well-known taxonomy of learning objectives is an attempt (within the behavioural paradigm) to classify forms and levels of learning. It identifies three "domains" of learning, each of which is organised as a series of levels or pre-requisites. As well as providing a basic sequential model for dealing with topics in the curriculum, it also suggests a way of categorising levels of learning, in terms of the expected ceiling for a given programme [3].

### Approaches to Coursework Assessment

**Essays:** A standard method, essentially concerned with trying out ideas and arguments, supported by evidence. Has potential for measuring understanding, synthesis, and evaluative skills. In most essays, there are not right or wrong answers and marking for feedback can be time consuming. Variations between markers can be high.

**Case Study:** Case study has potential for measuring application of knowledge, analysis, problem-solving and evaluative skills. This method allows students to apply theory to practical situations. Marking criteria help re-grading and

feedback.

**Project:** Good all-round ability testing. Potential for sampling wide range of practical, analytical, and interpretative skills. Develops tutor/student and student/student relationships. Wider application of knowledge and skills to real/simulated situations. Motivation tends to be high. Feedback potential (especially in incorporating self or peer assessment). Tests methods as well as end results and use of criteria reduces variability. May include seminars and tutorials, case studies, simulation, role-plays, problem solving exercises, team-building and experiential learning.

**Seminar Presentation:** Feedback potential from tutor, self and/or peers; tests preparation, understanding, knowledge, capacity to structure information and oral communication skills. Can broaden possible topic and approaches. Marking based on simple criteria is fast and potentially reliable.

**Laboratory Work:** Feedback potential; with potential for measuring knowledge of experimental procedures, analysis, and interpretation of results. Can also test preparation and practical skills and can help broaden topic and approaches, particularly in terms of application of knowledge.

**Poster:** Students summaries their work by preparing a poster. Encourages students to think creatively about their work and present it effectively, as well as presenting findings and interpretations succinctly and attractively. Presentation and feedback potential, from tutor, self and peers.

### Examples of Student Workload

**Workshop:** It is a form of educational activity, whereby instructor / assistant prepares a topic, objective, and programme. The student, through various techniques (brainstorming, feedback) and by using their own knowledge and experience, acquires skills that will be used in practice. During the workshop the instructor, assistant organizes, supervises, and helps students with the course. The workshop is meant to deepen already acquired knowledge and skills. The output of the workshop is to fulfil the conditions of the specified topic and objective. The workshop does not have a theoretical component, it is assumed that the student has a theoretical basis and is able to transfer theoretical knowledge into practical skills and it therefore calls for active cooperation among the participants of the workshop. A workshop can be prepared based on various scientific or professional topics. It is recommended to be prepared for approximately 60 min. (one topic) with an optimal number of 25 participants [4].

The student is obliged to gain, in the study program the required number of credits for which the distribution and total number of semesters is determined by the accreditation file. The standard student workload for one academic year is the sum of 60 credits in full-time study, for three years of standard study it is 180 ECTS. Each subject in the study

program is evaluated by the number of credits which reflect a quantitative measure of student workload in the study of the subject. A particular subject has the same credit evaluation for all students.

**Learning Outcomes:** The nurse have to: know the theoretical basis of nursing as a discipline with an emphasis on the historical development of the profession; theoretically know and practically work with method of nursing process in fulling the bio-psycho-social and spiritual needs of patient; know the principles of medical and nursing ethics, with the ability to solve ethical dilemmas in nursing practice; recognize a wide range of psychological, personal and psychosocial mechanisms, which are manifested in individuals during health and disease; have a knowledges of health and disease and uses them in primary, secondary and tertiary prevention; have a basic knowledge of the structure and function of the human body to the extent necessary for an understanding of disease processes; acquire knowledges of applied clinical nursing, form the basis of knowledges, which are necessary for professional ability to perform work activities in the nursing profession; be able to make changes, take risks, take responsibility, demonstrates the ability to improvise in accute situations; fast, wisely and decisively work, know legal responsibility in her/his profession, constantly gains expertise related to her/his own expertise and improves personal growth; use knowledge of management and control as a purposeful human activity in to creating optimum conditions for the provision of quality nursing care; acquire communication skills which are essential for interpersonal cooperation in the team as an essential part of nursing practice and synonymous for creating nurse-patient relationship; use knowledge of nursing education in the protection, support and restore the health of individuals, families, communities [5,6].

**Practical Skills:** The nurse independently: identifies needs person, family or community, and arranges or makes satisfying the needs in health-relation with disease or dying; participates in the establishment of the quality system and evaluates the quality of nursing care; organizes and ensures the implementation of interventions in order to the needs of the person; supports the promotion of advocacy of the needs and rights of people; organizes and executes activities related to the admision, discharge, transfer and patients death; does the nursing documentation, checks and analyzes the results in the nursing documentation; uses assessment scales in nursing care; ensures the providing of continuous nursing care to person after discharge from hospital care to home care; provides nursing care in a home environment; recommends care and collaboration with other individuals and legal persons; educates people about family or community nursing care with an emphasis on self-sufficiency; offers information related to providing nursing care according the required

extent to the person, family or community; collaborates with other health care professionals; provides environmental hygiene, including disinfection, and sterilization of medical devices; provides compliance of the safe environment of a person and the protection of his/her intimacy in providing nursing care.

The nurse measures, monitors and interprets the established numerical and clinical data of vital signs, examines visual acuity and auditory acuity, participates in the prevention of disorders of immobility, evaluates and treats disorders of the skin and mucous membrane integrity, applies dresses and compresses, suctiones secretions from the respiratory tract, treats drains, peripheral catheters, stoma, in the performance of nursing practice [7].

During non-contact hours students become more inspired and creative what then results in more effective preparation and knowledge for the following task. Students also learn to work within hospital environment and this programme allows them to communicate better with nurses, doctors, laboratory assistants and nurses in diagnosis centre.

**Evaluation of Academic Results:** Evaluation of academic results of the student within the academic subject is carried out: through continuous controlling of academic results during the period of study (written tests, seminar work etc.) and by exam for the given period of study. The teacher gives a grade for the completion of the subject. The evaluation expresses the quality of acquired knowledge and practical skills in accordance with the results of learning on the subject information sheet. It includes the different approaches to learning have all been included in the history of curriculum design and implementation, for example cognitive, behavioural, constructivist and post modern approaches to nursing and nurse education [5].

The main topics of core knowledge of the first degree of university studies are based primarily on the theory and practice of nursing. The study program is divided into academic subjects. The standard student workload for one academic year is the sum of 60 credits in full-time study, for three years of standard study it is 180 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).

Students are getting information and knowledge about health status and illness of a patient; they get knowledge and skills about taking anamnesis, physical examination, treatment and diagnostic modalities. Nurses know to document all procedures performed for patients. They are in some extent taught how to identify and differentiate nursing problems; to formulate objectives and draws up care plans; and how to carry out nursing duties on responsible and on effective way. Concerning ethics, inside all curricula there

is subjects dealing with ethical principles in nursing care. Nurses are taught to respect the rights of all individuals and groups. Approach to severely ill patients and emergency cases is given to nurses inside curricula but it can be devoted more time to this topic.

Research competences students generally are not getting during bachelor studies, only during master studies. There are some subjects like informatics, statistics and methodology of scientific work on faculties but generally students are not getting research skills during bachelor studies.

## Conclusion

Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, care of ill and individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles also from the point of view of the International Council of Nurses [8,9].

Modern nurse should recognize difference between normal and abnormal findings and apply principles of epidemiology in clinical practice. Prevention is one of the most important areas such as employing different screening strategies. Nurse should demonstrate critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills in clinical decision making. Nurse should have skills to independently assure the quality of, and to evaluate, nursing care; according to results based on external evaluation and accreditation to introduce changes and to permanently improve nursing care. Assumes accountability for practice. Engages in continuous quality improvement. Competence of nurse is the state of having the knowledge, skills, energy, experience and motivation required to respond adequately to the demands of one's professional responsibility [6].

## Limitation of the Study

Contribution possibilities are limited, because it is not possible to present all the methods that we use in the nursing field of study.

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