

GNC 2

MACDONALD-BUCHANAN AND LORNA DELVE SCHOOL OF NURSING
(The Associated Nursing Schools of the Middlesex Hospital and Horton Hospital)

District Nursing Officer:
Mr. D.J. Macdonald

Director of Nurse Education:
Miss E.L. Blake



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ELB/JT

24th August, 1978

Miss M.R. Briggs
Education Officer
General Nursing Council for England and Wales
23 Portland Place
W1A 1BA

Proposal for a B.Sc. Degree with Nursing Studies as the Main Field
and with a Qualification of State Registered Nurse

Dear Miss Briggs,

Subsequent to your letter of 24 July and our discussion with Miss Cooper, we would submit the following amendments in reply to the points which your letter raises.

The number of students we would wish to participate in the course would be twelve per year which would probably mean accepting twelve to fifteen per intake.

- 1. The total hours of nursing practice, since the 2.272 is well below the 3.000 which has formed the basis for approval of these courses to date.

We accept of course the need to meet E.E.C. requirements and even more the necessity of successful students reaching not merely a satisfactory but a high standard of professional skill based on experience in the wards. So far as the E.E.C. requirement was concerned, we had taken this to be 4.600 hours including both theory and practice and had calculated our hours as follows:

<u>Professional Programme</u>		
	Theory	1016
	Practice	2432
<u>Academic Programme</u>		
	Nursing studies	960
	total	<u>4408</u>

cont'd ...

These hours do not include any of the time spent in the study of the Social Sciences although we understand that such study may be included in the E.E.C. definition of nursing.

May we at this stage point out a calculation error in our submission and apologise for it. The diagram on page 13 shows the course concluding with a four week period of professional practice intended to provide the student with an opportunity of consolidating nursing experience with particular reference to incorporating sound administrative practice. By a simple clerical error, this course was omitted from the calculation of hours on page 15 and these should be increased accordingly by 160 as is done in the table on the previous page.

In the light of the Committee's view that the number of hours spent in practice as distinct from those spent in learning should be the vital consideration and that these should amount to about two-thirds of the total E.E.C. requirements of 4.600, we have now calculated for each course the appropriate division between theory and practice. We had in our submission taken as a general proposition that the proportion would be all theory for the Foundation Sciences Course, one third theory for the first year units, and one fifth theory for the third and fourth year units. We did not attempt to be more precise than this because it is not always possible to draw a sharp distinction between those occasions when the Sister or Tutor in the Clinical scene is teaching a small group of students and when they are practising under supervision what they have been taught. We would stress that almost all the professional teaching takes place in the Clinical scene and theory is always related to practice. The new calculation shows that the number of practice hours would more accurately be stated as (including the 160 omitted in error previously) 2564 and the number of theory hours as 984.

We have also reviewed the structure of the course in order to see whether we could accommodate any further professional practice without damage to the other parts of the degree. By making special arrangements in respect of these students for the academic teaching programmed for the period after the 1st year exams, we could release a three week period which might usefully be allocated as a consolidation period coming at the end of the 1st year Foundation Nursing Course. This would be of particular benefit as it would not only consolidate the students' experience but also introduce them to full time nursing.

The review we have carried out has suggested that further changes could be made in the third and fourth years which might release a further period for professional practice. These changes would involve transferring all third year academic studies to the fourth year and would mean that there was a gap of eighteen months between the academic programme completed in the second year and that begun in the fourth year. We consider that these changes would destroy the essential character of the degree. They would destroy the balance between professional and academic study and so would undermine the integration we have planned as an essential feature of the degree. The aims quoted on page 5 of the original submission would no longer be realisable and the students could not hope to reach a good Honours standard in the final and vital part of the academic course. We are, therefore, of the view that we could not recommend further changes to the University that would undermine the work of our Advisory Committee, and indeed, even if we did, it is clear to us that the University would reject them.

The revisions which we have been able to incorporate without damage to the educational curriculum will bring the hours of professional practice to 2.684. The revised summary of hours is as follows:

	Nursing Studies	Social Sciences	Total
Professional Programme			
Theory	984	-	984
Practice	2684	-	2684
Academic Programme			
Theory	960	1392	2352
Total	<u>4628</u>	<u>1392</u>	<u>6020</u>

We enclose revised pages 13 - 15 which incorporate the changes that are explained above.

cont'd ...

2. It is not clear how experience in Community Nursing will be incorporated.

In all of our existing Courses the teaching of Community aspects forms an integral part and we are fortunate to have three Tutors with Community professional experience.

Practical experience within the Community is now planned as one week in each of the Paediatric, Geriatric and Psychiatric modules. We hope also to extend this experience during particular Medical and Surgical allocations. The minimum practical hours in the Community would therefore be:-

$$3 \times 5 \times 8 = 120 \text{ hours}$$

3. Whilst supporting the principle of joint funding of tutorial staff between the University and the Area Health Authority they think there may be working difficulties in the proposals made.

We appreciate that our proposals for joint funding may raise some practical difficulties but from our discussions with Miss Cooper feel assured that there are several possible ways through which this suggestion might be realised.

4. The details and criteria for continuous assessment need further development.

This we accept and would say that we are exploring ways of achieving continuous assessment for all of our learners, but feel that with such a special course it might be appropriate to await the appointment of the Course Co-ordinator before making firm recommendations.

We trust that these amendments are acceptable to you.

Yours sincerely,

.....
Miss E.L. Blake
Director of Nurse Education
Macdonald-Buchanan School of Nursing
The Middlesex Hospital

.....
Dr. I.F. Burton
Head of the Department of Sociology
Bedford College
University of London

3.5 The outline time table can be represented as follows:

week	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year
1. AUTUMN	70% Academic 30% Professional	100% Academic	8 weeks Block continued 1 week leave 6 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block continued 1 week leave 8 weeks Block continued
2.				
3.				
4. TERM				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11. Xmas vacation	--	--	--	--
12.				
13.				
14.				
15. SPRING	70% Academic 30% professional	100% Academic	3 weeks Block professional training 50% Academic 50% professional (beginning 10 weeks Block) 50% professional	8 weeks Block continued 100% Academic
16. TERM				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25. Easter vacation	--	--	--	--
26.				
27.				
28.				
29.				
30. SUMMER	70% Academic 30% professional ----- exams ----- 3 weeks Block professional training	100% Academic exams	50% Academic 50% professional ----- exams -----	100% Academic exams
31. TERM				
32.				
33.				
34.				
35.				
36.				
37.				
38.				
39.				
40. Long vacation	5 weeks Block professional training 4 weeks leave 5 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training 4 weeks leave 8 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training 4 weeks leave 8 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training 4 weeks Block professional training
41.				
42.				
43.				
44.				
45.				
46.				
47.				
48.				
49.				
50.				
51.				
52.				

continued in 3rd year

continued in 4th year

Professional Curriculum

title	when taken	how taken	theory	practice	total
Foundation Course	1st year	1½ days / week for 24 weeks	96	192	288
Foundation Course Consolidation	1st year post exams	5 days / week for 3 weeks	-	120	120
Introduction to Foundation Sciences	1st long vacation	10 week Block * part of this will be applied teaching in the clinical scene	400	-	400*
Geriatric Nursing	2nd long vacation	8 week Block	32	288	320
Acute Medical Nursing	September/ October 3rd year	8 week Block	64	256	320
Acute Surgical Nursing	November/ December 3rd year	6 week Block	48	192	240
Operating Theatre - Recovery Room	January 3rd year	3 week Block	-	120	120
Trauma and management of surgical emergencies	3rd year	2½ days / week for 10 weeks	40	160	200
Gynaecological Nursing	3rd year 2nd semester	2½ days/week for 6 weeks	24	96	120
Obstetric Nursing	3rd long vacation	8 week Block	32	288	320
Paediatric Nursing	September / October 4th year	8 week Block	64	256	320
Psychiatric Nursing	4th year November/ January	8 week Block	64	256	320

Professional curriculum continued:

- 15 -

title	when taken	how taken	theory	practice	total
Special Medical Nursing	4th year long vacation	8 week Block	20	300	320
Consolidation	4th year long vacation	4 weeks	-	160	160
			884	2684	3568

Summary:

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week	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year		
1. AUTUMN	70% Academic 30% Professional	100% Academic	8 weeks Block continued	8 weeks Block continued		
2.						
3.						
4. TERM					1 week leave	1 week leave
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.					6 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block continued
9.						
10.						
11. Xmas vacation	--	--	--	--		
12.						
13.						
14.						
15. SPRING	70% Academic 30% professional	100% Academic	3 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block continued		
16.						
17.						
18.						
19. TERM					50% Academic	100% Academic
20.					50% professional beginning 10 weeks Block)	
21.						
22.						
23.						
24.						
25. Easter vacation	--	--	50% professional	--		
26.						
27.						
28.						
29.						
30. SUMMER	70% Academic	100% Academic	50% Academic	100% Academic		
31.	30% professional					
32.			50% professional			
33.						
34. TERM	exams	exams	exams	exams		
35.						
36.	3 weeks Block professional training					
37.						
38.						
39.						
40. Long vacation	5 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training		
41.						
42.						
43.						
44.						
45.						
46.	4 weeks leave	4 weeks leave	4 weeks leave	4 weeks Block professional training		
47.						
48.						
49.	5 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training	8 weeks Block professional training			
50.						
51.						
52.						

continued in 3rd year

continued in 4th year

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