

41

Proposal for a Degree in Nursing Studies

1. In September 1969, Bedford College began an experimental scheme of training with the MacDonald-Buchanan School of Nursing at the Middlesex Hospital. This scheme consisted of (i) a degree in Sociology Branch III (later replaced by one in Social Science and Administration and again in 1977 by a course-unit degree with special Field of Study in Social Policy and (ii) a special course leading to the qualification of State Registered Nurse and consisting of a month's training immediately before starting the university degree course, a month's training in each of the two long vacations and approximately eighteen months training following graduation. The Secretary of State approved the continuation of this course for a further five years to November 1976.

2. The combined course was set up in the belief that the study of sociology would give nurses a deeper understanding of the social institutions of industrial society, and of the causes and course of social change, including a special study of the sociology of medical care. It was intended that the students should acquire a depth of knowledge that would enable them to deal with a wide variety of situations and to adopt an analytical and critical approach to their daily work, which would in turn enhance their practise of nursing. It was also expected that graduates would be equipped to assist in the exercise of responsibility and in the formation and interpretation of policy in nursing administration, professional organisation and nursing education and research.

3. The combined course has proved very successful. A high calibre of students has been attracted who have obtained well above average academic results as graduates, followed by equally high professional success. The motivation of the students has been especially strong resulting in a very high proportion remaining in the profession.

/cont....

4. The present proposal is designed to capitalise the experience on the combined course and to remove two disadvantages; the restriction of numbers to six a year because of the need to support the students during professional training out of NHS funds and the lack of any real opportunity to integrate the students professional training with their academic study of the behavioural sciences.

5. We also wish to provide a base upon which a body of knowledge related to the principles and practices of nursing can be developed through research. We see the behavioural sciences as providing an essential basis for an understanding of the problems involved in caring for the individual in health and in sickness and in the community and in hospital. We consider that the Department of Sociology at Bedford College is particularly able to support this aim through its development of the study of sociology as applied to medicine in the Social Research Unit based in the Department under the direction of Professor Jefferys and Professor Brown.

6. The present submission does not change the basic ingredients of the present combined course, but is designed to integrate them and take advantage of the flexibility of a course-unit degree to provide some specially designed academic courses. The basis remains that of an honours degree in social policy combined with a special professional training.

7. Draft regulations are appended. We have had difficulty in ascribing course-unit values to some of the elements of the curriculum. We have interpreted the University's Regulations to mean that we need to restrict the total number of units to 12 in order that a candidate, who has failed essential courses, will not qualify for a special field of study in Nursing Studies carrying professional recognition.

7. /cont

Otherwise we would have, probably, wished to have given added value to the Introduction to Medical Sciences course, the Social Psychology course in the third year and the Sociology of Health Care course in the fourth year. We would like to discuss this matter further to confirm that our reading of the regulations is accurate. We would also like to discuss the possibility of naming the special field of study "Nursing Studies and Social Policy" (or vice-versa)

8. Notes on the Draft Regulations

- (a) All the Social Science Courses are courses at present registered for students taking Social Policy as their main field of study.
- (b) The Nursing Studies courses provided at Bedford College are modifications of similar courses taken by Social Policy students. In particular, the Sociology of Health Care has developed out of the Sociology of Medicine course taken by Social Policy students which in turn has grown out of the interests of the Department's Social Research Unit. This course has a key role in integrating the Student's academic and professional studies.
- (c) The Introduction to Medical Sciences Course will be taught over a total of ten weeks full-time study during the Summer Vacation of the first year. It will provide students with a foundation course in medical sciences as a preparation for further study in the professional units and consists of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Microbiology and Psychology.
- (d) The Introduction to Nursing Studies course will provide the student with an introduction to the care of medical, surgical and geriatric patients and introduce them to working as part of a ward team. The character of the other Nursing Studies courses taught at the School of Nursing is indicated by their title.

Degree in Nursing Studies

The B.Sc. degree with Nursing Studies as the main field of study is offered by Bedford College, in association with the Macdonald-Buchanan School of Nursing of the Middlesex Hospital, according to University of London Regulations for First Degrees based on Course-units. Successful candidates for the degree will also be awarded the professional qualification of State Registered Nurse.

Before entering the Course, candidates for admission must have satisfied the entrance requirements of the University of London. These are set out in the Bedford College Prospectus, which may be obtained from the Registrar.

I REGULATIONS

1. To obtain the degree, a student must have completed a prescribed amount of work in not less than four years. Part of each year will be spent on clinical placements and in associated practical work.
2. The work for the degree is divided into Courses, each of which is assessed and examined separately, either during or at some time after the conclusion of the Course. Each Course has a prescribed unit value and to qualify for the degree, a candidate must complete a minimum of 12 course-units and satisfy the examiners in at least 11. A minimum of 6 course-units must be in Nursing Studies. Students obtaining a standard above that required for a pass will be awarded Honours classified as First Class, Second Class (Upper Division), Second Class (Lower Division) and Third Class.
3. In accordance with University Regulations, a student may be refused entry to the examination in a Course if, in the view of the teachers of that Course, the student's attendance has been inadequate. In such a case the student will not be considered to have completed the Course.

4. Examinations will always contain some written element. This will usually take the form of written papers, but may be in the form of a report or a practical examination. Oral examinations and assessment of practical placements and general performance throughout the Course may also be taken into consideration.
5. At the end of the first or second year a student may choose, or may be required, to proceed to a course of study leading to the award of a degree in another main field and without the professional nursing qualification. Such students will be eligible for the award of a degree after a minimum course of study of three years and on completion of at least 9 course-units with passes in 8.

II

DEGREE STRUCTURE

In the following, Courses taught at Bedford College are designated (BC) and those at the Middlesex are designated (MX).

First Year

Social Sciences

(BC) INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL THEORY	(1/2 C/U)
(BC) INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL STRUCTURE	(1/2 C/U)
(BC) INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL HISTORY	(1/2 C/U)
(BC) INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS	(1/2 C/U)
(BC) INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS	(1/2 C/U)

Nursing Studies

(MX) INTRODUCTION TO NURSING STUDIES	(1/2 C/U)
--------------------------------------	-----------

(Each Course is examined in June by a two-hour unseen paper)

Summer Vacation of First Year

Nursing Studies

(MX) INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL SCIENCES	(1/2 C/U)
---------------------------------------	-----------

(Examined at the conclusion of the Course by 2 two-hour unseen papers, one in Anatomy and Physiology and the other in Pathology and Microbiology.)

Summer Vacation of First Year /cont

In order to proceed to Second Year Social Sciences Courses, students must have passed Courses to a value of at least 2 course-units from the Social Sciences Courses taken in the First Year. In order to proceed to Second Year Nursing Studies Courses, both Nursing Studies Courses taken in the First Year must have been passed.

Second Year

Social Sciences

- (BC) SOCIAL POLICY (1 C/U)
 (BC) METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (1 C/U)
 (BC) SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES (1 C/U)

Nursing Studies

- (BC) ADMINISTRATION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES (1/2 C/U)

(Examined in June, the first 3 Courses by three-hour unseen papers and the last by a two-hour unseen paper)

Summer Vacation of Second Year

Nursing Studies

- (MX) GERIATRIC NURSING (1/2 C/U)

(Examined at the end of the Course by a case-study of a maximum of 5000 words. Ward assessment is included in the mark for the Course.)

Third Year

Nursing Studies

- (BC) GENERAL AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (1/2 C/U)

(Examined in June by a three-hour unseen paper.)

- (BC) In addition, students attend a short non-examined Course on COUNSELLING

- (MX) ACUTE MEDICAL NURSING (1/2 C/U)
 (MX) ACUTE SURGICAL AND OBSTETRICS NURSING (1 C/U)

(Both examined at the end of the Course by a written report and a multiple choice question paper.)

- (MX) Gynaecological Nursing (1/2 C/U)

Summer Vacation of Third Year

Nursing Studies

(MX) GYNAECOLOGICAL NURSING (continued)

(Examined at the end of the Course by a completed work book, a written report and a multiple choice question paper.)

Fourth Year

Nursing Studies

(BC) SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH CARE (1 C/U)

(Examined in June by a three-hour unseen paper and an essay of a maximum of 10,000 words to be submitted by 1st June.)

(MX) PAEDIATRIC NURSING (1/2 C/U)

(Examined at the end of the Course by a written report and a multiple choice questions paper.)

(MX) PSYCHIATRIC NURSING (1/2 C/U)

(Examined at the end of the Course by a case-study of a maximum of 5000 words and an oral examination.)

There is also a three-hour unseen comprehensive paper on Nursing in June.

In order to qualify for State Registration, there is a final period of Nursing Practice (Long Stay) and a general Consolidation Course in the summer vacation of the Fourth Year.