

The Top-up Nursing Degree Program of the Cyprus University of Technology

Maria-Aggeliki Stamouli, Charalampos Balis, Parisis Gallos, John Mantas

Laboratory of Health Informatics, Faculty of Nursing, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Abstract and Objectives

Aim of this study is to describe the top-up degree program that is offered in Nursing, by the Nursing Department of Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), to the nursing professionals who are graduates of Nursing School of Cyprus. Aim of the program is to provide the graduates of the Nursing School with additional studies that lead to the acquisition of academic degree (top-up degree) in Nursing (or Nursing of Mental Health).

Keywords:

CUT, Top-up program, Nursing, Evaluation

Introduction

The Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) was founded by law on December 2003. It consists of the following Faculties and Departments: 1) Faculty of Geotechnical Sciences and Environmental Management, 2) Faculty of Management and Economics, 3) Faculty of Health Sciences, 4) Faculty of Applied Arts and Communication and 5) Faculty of Engineering and Technology [1].

The Top-up Degree Program

Aim of the top-up program is to provide the graduates of Nursing School of Cyprus with additional studies that lead to the acquisition of academic degree, equivalent to the B.Sc. in Nursing (or Nursing of Mental Health). Its content was formed after comparative evaluation of the work volume (according to the European Credit Transfer System-ECTS), of the Nursing School's course syllabus and the Nursing Department's of CUT course syllabus. The study is compulsory. The participants should attend successfully 7 different courses and participate to a final written exam for each course. Finally they have to elaborate a Thesis.

The program is offered at four educational centers: Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Pafos. Two different courses are offered, at the same time, at each center, in each semester (two full semesters per year). Duration of each course: 24 teaching hours per semester. The final written exams will be conducted at the end of each semester. In the case of failure, one may repeat the course on the upcoming semesters and sit for the final written exams again. However, in the case of a new failure the participant will be rejected for the program.

The program contains the following courses: 1) Epidemiology and Statistics, 2) Theories and models in Nursing, 3) Clinical Nursing: Trends and future, 4) Community Health Mental Nursing, 5) Nursing research methodology and 6) Technology and Health Informatics [1], which specifically contains the following topics: 1) Basic Informatics concepts, 2) Basic Health Informatics concepts, 3) Hospital Information Systems, 4) Electronic Patient Health Record, 5) Telemedicine, 6) Biomedical Technology and 7) Bio-Informatics.

The evaluation of the program is carried out with the use of suitably drawn questionnaires. Two different types of questionnaires were drawn, one for the academic staff and one suitable for the students. The final results of the evaluation procedure will be presented as soon as the data processing will be completed.

Discussion / Conclusions

The results of the evaluation process will demonstrate the extent to which the program has responded to the initial objectives taking into consideration the large number of students. The difficulties of implementing the program mostly concern the cooperation and coordination of all the different academic and professional authorities. There has also been special concern about the specification of the teaching material by CUT. This effort aims to enrich and upgrade the student's knowledge so as to make them able to 1) meet the increasing demands of the healthcare services, 2) participate in the conduct of researches and 3) integrate the use of technology in their daily work.

References

[1] Cyprus University of Technology. [homepage on the Internet]. [cited 2009 Jan 05]. Available from: <http://www.cut.ac.cy/en/>

Address for correspondence

123, Papadiamadopoulou str., 11527, Athens, Greece.
mstamouli@yahoo.com, chbalis@nurs.uoa.gr,
parisgallos@yahoo.com, jmantas@nurs.uoa.gr