Higher Diploma in Mental Health Nursing
UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems
HSE Community Healthcare East Nurse Practice Development

Introduction
The Higher Diploma in Mental Health Nursing was launched in 2017 and is now entering its fourth year. On successful completion of this 53-week programme, participants are entitled to register with the NMBI in the psychiatric nurse division.

Who we are
UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems
Dublin South East-Wicklow Mental Health Services
North Dublin Mental Health Services
Dublin South Central Mental Health Services
Dublin North City Mental Health Services
Kildare-West Wicklow Mental Health Services
St. Joseph’s MHID Services, Dublin North
National Forensic Mental Health Service
St. John of God Hospital

Road to registration with NMBI
- Illuminating core and specialist placements
  - 12 weeks theory and 36 weeks clinical input
- Expert clinical and academic teaching across 80 ECTS
- Clinical and Academic Partnership
- NMHS 32560 Recovery Based Frameworks
- NMHS 32600 Specific Populations
- NMHS 32720 Acute Mental Health Nursing
- NMHS 32570 Therapeutic Interventions
- NMHS 32550 Psychosocial Interventions
- NMHS 32940 HDMH Clinical Module Clinical Placements
- NMHS 32540 Evidence Based Practice for MH Nursing
- NMHS 32950 Leadership for Quality and Safety in mental health nursing

At a glance
A range of theoretical and clinical placements underpin the participant learning experience. The programme has proven popular with RGN, RNID and RCN colleagues from across the country. To date, over 100 participants have commenced the programme with a new cohort due in January 2020.

Planning for success
1. Liaison between UCD and Nurse Practice Development teams: key roles including programme director, nurse practice development co-ordinator, joint clinical tutor, clinical placement co-ordinator, lecturers
3. Governance structures: A Higher Diploma Steering Group meets several times per year and is supported by a Clinical Sub-committee, enhancing communication and planning processes.

Testimonials
"I was very impressed throughout the course with the collegiate atmosphere and approach to learning. I found the overall standard, skill and expertise of both guest and staff teaching to be excellent."

"Even though I have completed a HDip and MSc prior to this course, I feel neither of those were responsible for the amount of academic growth I experienced on this course, I attribute this in no small part to the enthusiasm, skill and approachability of the lecturers."

"These are skills I aim to develop going forward. I found that there is a higher expectation of a post-grad student, but no discrimination towards students with inexperience or a long time out of academia. Tutors and CPCs were very giving of themselves, including reassurance, personal stories and practical advice."

Innovations
- Restructuring of modules in 2018, reflecting a shift in emphasis towards Acute Mental Health Nursing module
- Promotion of active learning through flipped classroom and creative controversy
- Expert external and internal speakers
- Specialist interactive materials and reusable learning objects created
- Reduction in student assessment in response to feedback from students and external examiner
- Positive evaluation using Student Assessment of Learning Gains tool in areas including learning gains from theory components, assessments, support received, study and learning skills, application of knowledge to personal and professional life
- Development of therapeutic communications and assessment in mental health nursing workbooks
- Use of new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Brightspace.

Further information
For additional information on topics including:
- Application process
- Programme outcomes
- Placement areas
- Programme layout

Please consult https://www.nmhs.ucd.ie/study-with-us/graduate-programmes/courses/higher-diploma-mental-health-nursing

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