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<th>Higher Diploma in Mental Health Nursing</th>
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<td><strong>Authors(s)</strong></td>
<td>Frawley, Timothy; O'Kelly, Gabrielle; Flanagan, Clare; Lonergan, Marie; Donnelly, Peter; Mac Neill, Deirdre; Maruthu, Rajinikanth; Conway, Rebecca</td>
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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.

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.

Aim

To develop the graduate nurses’ knowledge base and competency in the area of mental health nursing. An emphasis is placed on recovery, professional and interdisciplinary frameworks to enable achievement of the required learning outcomes.

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

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.

At a glance

A range of theoretical and clinical placements underpin the participant learning experience
NMHS 32560 Recovery Based Frameworks
NMHS 32600 Specific Populations
NMHS 32720 Acute Mental Health Nursing
NMHS 32570 Therapeutic Interventions
NMHS 32550 Psychosocial Interventions for people with severe and enduring mental illness
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

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

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.”

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following: The Health Service Executive for commissioning the programme. We wish to thank Dean and Head of School Prof Gerard Fealy and Area Director of Nursing Mr. Cormac Walsh for their ongoing support. We also wish to acknowledge and thank retiring Programme Director Dr Gabrielle O’Kelly for her stewardship and development of the programme. We wish to enter the Nurse Manager category.