

5.1.11.5 Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing

Specific admission requirements

- One of the following qualifications:
 - A bachelor's degree in Nursing (Regulation 174) and/or the Diploma in Nursing: General Nurses (Regulation 171) with the Advanced Diploma in Midwifery (Regulation 1497); or
 - A two-year diploma (bridging course) leading to registration as General or Psychiatric Nurse offered under Regulation 683 of 14 April 1989, as amended, followed by a one-year Diploma in Midwifery offered under Regulation 254 of 14 February 1975, as amended; or
 - A four-year Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery offered under Regulation 425 of 22 February 1985, as amended; or
 - A four-year bachelor's degree offered under Regulation 425 of 22 February 1985, as amended.
- Current registration with the South African Nursing Council (SANC) as a Professional Nurse and Midwife, or a General Nurse with a Midwifery qualification.
- Valid proof of successful completion of a Basic Life Support (BLS) course must be submitted upon registration for the PG Dip in Mental Health Nursing programme or within two months of commencement of the programme.

Two years' experience as a Registered/Professional Nurse and Midwife, which includes experience in the field of the speciality within the last two years is recommended.

Computer literacy is highly recommended.

Application procedure and closing date

Apply online at www.maties.com by **31 October** of the previous year.

Duration of programme

The programme extends full-time over one academic year.

Programme description

The programme aims to develop you into a critically thinking, creative and reflective practitioner who not only takes the lead in providing mental healthcare, but also serves as a resource on mental health services in South Africa.

It will equip you with an in-depth knowledge and therapeutic skills to diagnose, treat, care for and manage individuals with mental disorders at a primary, secondary and tertiary care level. A particular focus will be the skill to consult and liaise with patients. The programme will also help you understand the context and dynamics of our health services system, and how this affects health services delivery.

Presentation

Theory is presented using a blended-learning approach in block periods as per the academic calendar on the Tygerberg Campus. Work-integrated learning comprises of simulation learning, clinical practice for experiential learning, and role-taking at clinical facilities in the Western Cape Province that SANC has specifically accredited for Stellenbosch University (720 hours as stipulated by SANC).

Programme content

Evidence-based Practice	721(8)
Leadership and Development in Specialist Practice	743(8)
Praxis of Specialist Practice	746(8)
Principles and Processes of Mental Health Nursing	751(48)
Specialist Mental Health Nursing Practice	753(48)

Assessment and examination

- A variety of formative and summative assessment methods are used. You will be assessed based on:
 - assignments;
 - the application of research principles and methods;
 - patient case presentations;
 - case studies;
 - clinical skills;
 - portfolios of evidence; and
 - written tests and examinations.
- Each module is assessed separately, and you must achieve at least 50% in a module to pass.

- If you fail a first-semester module, you will be allowed a second assessment opportunity in June of the same year. If you fail the second opportunity, you will not be permitted to continue with your studies in the programme.
- If you fail a year module, you will be allowed a second assessment opportunity in January of the following year. If you fail the second opportunity, you will not be permitted to continue with your studies in the programme.

Enquiries

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5.1.11 Postgraduate Diplomas in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery

Programme description

Specialist nurses/midwives are registered nurses/midwives with specialised skills in their fields of speciality. These skills include the ability to make decisions in complex circumstances and to provide an expanded range of services. To this end, the nurse/midwife specialist needs to be competent in:

- professional, ethical and legal practice;
- clinical practice;
- personal development;
- management and leadership; and
- evidence-based practice and research.

The postgraduate diploma programmes in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery equip graduates to be leaders in their specialist areas and to deliver specialist nursing/midwifery care that is person-centred, autonomous, innovative, comprehensive, ethical and evidence-based, and complies with all appropriate legislation. By teaching students both theoretical and applied skills, the various postgraduate diploma programmes promote critical thinking, evidence-based practice and socially relevant research. The programmes are designed to meet the outcomes and competencies required by the South African Nursing Council (SANC).

Programme outcomes

Once you have completed a postgraduate diploma programme in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery, you should:

- Be able to demonstrate the skills as outlined in the South African Nursing Council's postgraduate qualification framework and be able to apply the skills meaningfully and effectively in your area of specialisation.
- Be able to demonstrate critical thinking and the use of evidence-based practice to improve current practices and meet the needs of society.
- Be able to provide holistic person-centred care to patients of any age, in any state of health or illness, and in any service or care setting within your specialisation.
- Take the lead in caring for those in your care, paying special attention to patients' needs, lifespan, stage of development and quality of life.
- Know how to organise and manage the nursing/midwifery environment in which you operate, by among other things, applying cost-effective strategies and improving collaboration between nursing/midwifery and other disciplines and professions.

- Demonstrate the use of effective communication skills to meaningfully communicate with patients, colleagues and learners in diverse environments.
- Know what is expected of you to comply with professional codes of conduct, scopes of practice, and ethical values and frameworks, including the reasoning behind moral and specialist care.
- Be able to use innovative strategies, including technology, to improve the quality of care, teaching and learning, management and leadership.
- Know how to carry out effective learning and teaching strategies, create positive learning environments, and encourage others to self-reflect, adapt and develop academically.
- Serve as a role model and advocate for those in your care, the broader community and the profession.

Assessment and examination

- All programmes are subject to the provisions regarding examinations, promotion and reassessment in a single module as outlined in Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook.
- A variety of formative and summative assessment methods are used, and the results indicate whether you have achieved the intended outcomes. Therefore, your assessment as a nursing/ midwifery specialist will indicate whether you have achieved the required academic growth and focus and have managed to integrate theory and practice appropriately.
- Each module is assessed separately, and you must achieve at least 50% in a module to pass.
- If you fail a module for the second time, you will not be allowed to continue with the programme.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section *Postgraduate programmes*.