

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**Master of Science in Nursing
Credit Unit Statement**

The three-year (full-time) Master of Science in Nursing (“MSc(Nurs)”) curriculum consists of four different categories of courses: Lecture-based Courses, Laboratory Courses, Clinical Practicum and Capstone Experience. Taking reference to a 6-credit course normally embraces 170-180 hours of student learning activities (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity), majority of courses are 6-credit. For 9-credit and 27-credit courses, 220-240/250-270 and 740-800 hours of student learning activities are required.

Students are assessed for each course and the assessment may be conducted in any one or a combination of written tests or examinations, continuous assessment of performance, field work, or project reports. The four categories of the MSc(Nurs) courses are summarised as follows:

1. *Lecture-based Courses (6 credits embracing 120-180 learning hours including 52 contact hours)*

These courses focus on content, including nursing theories, and are taught predominantly by lectures and may be accompanied by tutorials. Assessment is conducted through continuous assessment (30-70%) (e.g. tutorial performance, assignments, tests, and group project) and examinations (30-70%). Outputs may include assignments, tests, presentations and examinations. Range of work requirement is normally 1,000 to 1,500 words.

2. *Laboratory Courses (6 credits embracing 120-180 learning hours including 52 contact hours)*

These courses provide the opportunity for students to observe and practise clinical skills essential for clinical settings with the application of the nursing theories learnt from the class. These courses are taught in lectures and laboratory sessions. Assessment is conducted through continuous assessment (40-60%) (e.g. assignments, tests and clinical skills assessments) and examinations (40-60%). Outputs may include assignments, tests, presentation, clinical skills assessments and examinations. Range of work requirement is normally 1,000 to 1,500 words.

3. *Clinical Practicum (6 credits embracing 170-180 learning hours including 160 contact hours / 9 credits embracing 220-240/250-270 learning hours including 200/240 contact hours respectively / 27 credits embracing 740-800 learning hours including 680 contact hours)*

These practica aim at providing clinical experiences for students to apply knowledge of nursing process, communication, problem-solving and decision making in different medical and surgical settings. Contact hours are minimal since the courses are predominantly practical in nature, while working period takes up 160 hours for a 6-credit

course, 200/240 hours for a 9-credit course, and 680 hours for a 27-credit course respectively.

Assessment is generally conducted through continuous clinical assessment by supervisors according to the objectives or the assessment criteria as listed in the Nursing Practicum Assessment Journal (NPAJ). Students are expected to achieve and fulfill the essential and specific learning objectives in each practicum and their level of clinical competence are recorded properly in the Journal. These objectives are related to knowledge, attitudes and skills applicable to the setting of nursing practice. Comments on students' performance will also be recorded in this Journal. To comply with the Clinical Assessment Scheme mandated by the Nursing Council of Hong Kong, students are required to pass the three clinical assessments by the end of the third year of study. These three assessments are Aseptic Technique (AT); Administration of drugs by mouth (AOM) and Professional Nursing Competencies (PNC). Assessment is conducted through practicum performance (100%). Outputs may include continuous assessment of practicum performance in terms of skills, competency, attitudes and other qualities such as communication, problem-solving and decision-making abilities.

4. *Capstone Experience (15 credits)*

The capstone experience consists of an Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice Course (6 credits) and a Nursing Thesis (9 credits).

Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice Course (6 credits embracing 120 – 180 learning hours including 52 contact hours)

The Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice Course equips students with basic knowledge and skills in conducting advanced nursing research. It helps the students to further build up a solid foundation for completing their final thesis. It is taught predominantly by lectures, supplemented by in-class discussion and self-directed learning. Assessment is conducted through written assignments (100%). Range of word requirement is normally 200-1,500 words.

Nursing Thesis (9 credits embracing 180 – 270 learning hours including 78 contact hours)

The Nursing Thesis provides the research route for students to enhance their professional development through scientific inquiry. Students are guided step-by-step with tutorials in formulating a thesis. They will be able to identify practice and systems problems of significance to nursing; formulate research questions; synthesize and critique research related to the research questions; design the implementation and outcomes evaluation of the findings associated with the synthesis by applying the principles of Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice; propose the research process to generate knowledge that will solve problems of nursing practice; and report and defend proposal orally and in writing to the scientific, professional and lay communities. It is taught predominantly by tutorials, supplemented by oral presentations and self-directed learning. Assessment is conducted through oral presentations (5%) and thesis (95%), with the maximum word requirement to be 10,000 words.

The following table summarizes the details of the four categories of courses under the MSc(Nurs) curriculum:

Nature of Courses	Credits	Learning Hours	Contact Hours	Output Requirements	Assessment
Lecture-based Courses	6 (22 courses)	120 - 180	52	Assignments, tests, presentations and examinations (1,000 to 1,500 words)	30%-70% continuous assessment and 30%-70% examinations
Laboratory Courses				Assignments, tests, presentation, clinical skills assessments and examinations (1,000 to 1,500 words)	
Clinical Practicum	6 (2 courses)	170 - 180	160	Continuous assessment of practicum performance	100% continuous assessment
	9 (2 courses)	220 – 240 / 250 – 270	200 / 240		
	27 (1 course)	740 - 800	680		
Capstone Experience	6 (1 course)	120 - 180	52	Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice: Written assignment (200-1,500 words)	100% continuous assessment
	9 (1 course)	180 - 270	78	Nursing Thesis: Oral presentations and thesis (10,000 words)	100% continuous assessment
Total hours		4,490 – 6,080	2,714		