

Criterion 3 - Educational Standards

Standard

The pre-registration nursing programme is required to be equivalent to:

- Level 7 on the New Zealand Qualification Authority framework
- 3 years minimum full time study

The pre-registration nursing programme must contain specific detail regarding the graduates ability to:

- Demonstrate intellectual independence, critical thinking and analytic rigour.
- Engage in self directed learning.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills related to the ideas, principles, concepts, research methods and problem solving techniques of nursing.
- Demonstrate the skills needed to acquire, understand and assess information from a range of sources.
- Demonstrate communication and collaborative skills.
(New Zealand Qualifications Authority www.nzqa.govt.nz)

The pre-registration nursing programme is based on health care and practice trends.

50% of theory hours of the pre-registration nursing programme must have a clear nursing focus and include nursing theory and concepts.

The pre-registration programme provides learning experiences in theory and clinical that:

- Promotes the development of critical thinking and nursing inquiry
- Utilises current best practice and research based teaching and learning approaches.

The structure of the pre-registration nursing programme clearly identifies:

- How nursing knowledge and skills are expanded and extended across the duration of the programme
- The expected learning outcomes for each course and demonstrate how these learning outcomes will be met including how they are assessed.

The pre-registration nursing programme specifically requires students to demonstrate, in practice at a graduate level (Level 7, NZQA), the following:

- pharmacology knowledge and medicine management
- comprehensive health consumer assessment skills and clinical decision making skills
- therapeutic communication with health consumers
- working within a health care team
- the use of information technology and health information management.

The programme must provide a minimum of 1100 clinical experience hours. This excludes lab or simulation hours.

The clinical experiences must have formulated learning outcomes that demonstrate increased responsibility, knowledge and skills across the years, with a clear registered nurse role by the final semester / year of the programme.

An extended clinical experience of 360 hours minimum is included in the final semester of the programme. This must consist of full shifts of approximately 8 hours.

The clinical experiences occur in a range of settings with health consumers across the lifespan and must include:

- primary health care and community settings
- acute care including medical and surgical settings
- continuing care settings including acute and rehabilitation / disability care settings
- mental health care including acute and rehabilitation / continuing care settings.

The New Zealand education programme standards for the registered nurse scope of practice are available [here](#)