AOU Nursing Science — Student Handbook (Part I)

B.NSc. · NMCN pathway · Courses, clinical postings, pathways & assessment

AKPAKIP ORO UNIVERSITY (AU)

Oro Nation, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SCIENCE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

PART I

B.NSc. Nursing Science

Leading to Eligibility for Licensure with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN)

Your Guide to Courses, Weekly Topics, Coursework, Clinical/Practical Training and Assessment

Academic Structure: Five Years / Ten Semesters

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A. Welcome, Programme Goals and What You Will Achieve

A.1 About This Handbook

This handbook is your guide to the B.NSc. Nursing Science programme at Akpakip Oro University. It is built on the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) and designed to prepare you for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), in line with International Council of Nurses (ICN) global standards.

Teaching follows Outcome-Based Education (OBE): every course you take, every topic taught and every assessment you sit is designed to build toward the outcomes below.

A.2 What You Will Be Able to Do By Graduation (Programme Educational Objectives)

Within three to five years of graduating, you are expected to:

PEO1: Apply nursing science and evidence-based practice to deliver safe, competent nursing care across medical-surgical, maternal-child, mental health and community settings.

PEO2: Attain licensure with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) and progress into clinical nursing practice, nursing education, or postgraduate study.

PEO3: Practise nursing with compassion, integrity and ethical judgement grounded in the Oro (Oron) Nation's and wider African cultural values of dignity, empathy, inclusion and justice.

PEO4: Deliver culturally sensitive, community-responsive nursing care addressing the health needs of Niger Delta and Gulf of Guinea populations.

PEO5: Engage in continuous, life-long learning and the responsible application of health informatics and digital tools throughout a nursing career.

A.3 Programme Outcomes — Your Graduate Attributes

By the time you graduate, you will be able to demonstrate the following twelve outcomes:

No.

Outcome

Description

HPO1

Scientific and Clinical Knowledge

Apply the foundational biomedical, behavioural and clinical sciences relevant to the profession to safe, competent practice.

HPO2

Clinical/Professional Skills and Procedures

Perform the clinical, technical or professional procedures expected of a competent entry-level practitioner.

HPO3

Patient/Client-Centred Communication

Communicate effectively and compassionately with patients, clients, families and communities, respecting their autonomy and dignity.

HPO4

Professionalism and Ethics

Practise with integrity, accountability and adherence to professional codes of ethics and regulatory requirements.

HPO5

Population, Public and Community Health

Apply knowledge of population health, epidemiology and preventive practice to community and public health challenges.

HPO6

Evidence-Based Practice and Research

Critically appraise and apply research evidence to inform practice, and conduct basic research under supervision.

HPO7

Interprofessional Collaboration and Teamwork

Function effectively as a member of multidisciplinary healthcare and research teams.

HPO8

Health Systems, Management and Leadership

Understand the organisation, financing and management of health systems, including resource-limited settings.

HPO9

Cultural Competence and Health Equity

Practise with cultural sensitivity and attention to health equity, particularly within Niger Delta and Gulf of Guinea communities.

HPO10

Health Informatics and Digital Technology

Use health information systems and digital/AI-enabled tools responsibly to support practice and decision-making.

HPO11

Patient Safety and Quality Improvement

Apply patient/client safety principles and participate in continuous quality improvement.

HPO12

Life-Long Learning and Professional Development

Engage in continuous, reflective, life-long learning and professional development.

A.4 How to Use This Handbook

For every semester, you should identify:

The courses you must register, with codes, credit units, status (Core/Elective) and prerequisites.

The main topics to be taught and their weekly sequencing.

Clinical, laboratory or practical activities you must attend.

Assignments and coursework you must complete.

Continuous assessment requirements.

Major examinations, projects and any specialisation/posting pathway you must declare.

What you should be able to do by the end of the course.

What you need to prepare for the next semester.

A.5 Credit Units, Clinical Posting and Grading

One (1) credit unit is equivalent to one hour of lecture/tutorial contact per week, or two-to-three hours of laboratory/clinical contact per week, over a fifteen-week semester. Your indicative total load across the ten-semester programme is approximately 180-195 credit units. Clinical postings are compulsory, logged, and contribute to both continuous assessment and Pass/Fail clearance for clinical practice. Continuous assessment typically makes up 30-50% of your grade depending on the course, with the balance from end-of-semester or professional examinations.

B.NSc. Nursing Science

Delivered by the Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Medical Sciences, leading to eligibility for licensure examination with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN).

Programme Emphasis

The programme trains nurses competent in medical-surgical, maternal and child health, mental health and community nursing, meeting NMCN requirements and aligned with ICN (International Council of Nurses) global standards, with particular attention to the health needs of the Niger Delta and Gulf of Guinea.

Curriculum Structure — Semester-by-Semester Summary

Semester

Level

Academic Theme

Semester 1

100 Level, First Semester

Foundations of Nursing I

Semester 2

100 Level, Second Semester

Foundations of Nursing II

Semester 3

200 Level, First Semester

Basic Clinical Sciences I

Semester 4

200 Level, Second Semester

Basic Clinical Sciences II

Semester 5

300 Level, First Semester

Specialty Nursing Foundations I

Semester 6

300 Level, Second Semester

Specialty Nursing Foundations II

Semester 7

400 Level, First Semester

Advanced Specialty Nursing Practice I

Semester 8

400 Level, Second Semester

Advanced Specialty Nursing Practice II

Semester 9

500 Level, First Semester

Professional Integration I

Semester 10

500 Level, Second Semester

Integrated Professional Readiness

Semester 1 — 100 Level, First Semester

Academic Theme: Foundations of Nursing I

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title	Units	Status	Prerequisite
GST 101	Communication in English I	2	C	None
GST 103	Nigerian Peoples and Culture	2	C	None
BIO 101	General Biology I	3	C	None
CHM 101	General Chemistry I	3	C	None
PHY 101	General Physics I	2	C	None
NSC 101	Introduction to the Nursing Profession	2	C	None
NSC 103	Fundamentals of Nursing I	3	C	None
Total Units This Semester			

17

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Foundational biology, chemistry and physics; orientation to nursing as a profession; basic nursing procedures and patient care fundamentals.

Coursework Requirements

Science problem sets and practicals

Fundamentals of nursing skills checklist

Career reflection essay

Semester 2 — 100 Level, Second Semester

Academic Theme: Foundations of Nursing II

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

GST 102

Communication in English II

2

C

GST 101

GST 104

Use of Library, Study Skills and ICT

1

C

None

BIO 102

General Biology II

3

C

BIO 101

CHM 102

General Chemistry II

2

C

CHM 101

NSC 102

Human Anatomy I

3

C

BIO 101

NSC 104

Fundamentals of Nursing II

3

C

NSC 103

NSC 106

Nursing Ethics and Jurisprudence I

2

C

None

Total Units This Semester

16

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Anatomy fundamentals; advanced basic nursing skills; introduction to nursing ethics and professional regulation.

Coursework Requirements

Anatomy practicals

Nursing skills demonstration

Ethics case study

Semester 3 — 200 Level, First Semester

Academic Theme: Basic Clinical Sciences I

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 201

Human Anatomy II

3

C

NSC 102

NSC 203

Human Physiology I

3

C

BIO 102

NSC 205

Medical-Surgical Nursing I

4

C

NSC 104

NSC 207

Nutrition and Dietetics

2

C

None

NSC 209

Microbiology for Nurses

2

C

BIO 102

GST 201

Entrepreneurship Studies I

2

C

None

NSC 291

Clinical Posting I

0

C

Pass/Fail, logged

Total Units This Semester

16

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Anatomy and physiology continuation; medical-surgical nursing principles; nutrition; microbiology relevant to infection control; supervised clinical posting begins.

Coursework Requirements

Physiology lab reports

Medical-surgical nursing care plans

Nutrition assessment exercise

Clinical posting logbook

SIWES

Students begin supervised clinical postings in hospital wards, in accordance with the approved clinical placement arrangement.

Semester 4 — 200 Level, Second Semester

Academic Theme: Basic Clinical Sciences II

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 202

Human Physiology II

3

C

NSC 203

NSC 204

Medical-Surgical Nursing II

4

C

NSC 205

NSC 206

Pharmacology for Nurses

3

C

NSC 203

NSC 208

Pathology for Nurses

2

C

NSC 203

NSC 210

Community Health Nursing I

3

C

None

GST 202

Entrepreneurship Studies II

2

C

GST 201

Total Units This Semester

17

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Advanced physiology; medical-surgical nursing continuation; pharmacology for safe medication administration; pathology; community health nursing fundamentals.

Coursework Requirements

Pharmacology calculation exercises

Medical-surgical nursing care plans

Community health field report

Semester 5 — 300 Level, First Semester

Academic Theme: Specialty Nursing Foundations I

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 301

Maternal and Child Health Nursing I

4

C

NSC 204

NSC 303

Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing I

3

C

NSC 204

NSC 305

Medical-Surgical Nursing III

4

C

NSC 204

NSC 307

Research Methods in Nursing

2

C

None

NSC 309

Nursing Ethics and Jurisprudence II

1

C

NSC 106

NSC 391

Clinical Posting II

0

C

Pass/Fail, logged

Total Units This Semester

14

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Maternal and child health nursing; mental health nursing fundamentals; advanced medical-surgical nursing; research methods; continued clinical posting.

Coursework Requirements

Maternal/child nursing care plans

Mental health case study

Medical-surgical nursing care plans

Research proposal outline

Semester 6 — 300 Level, Second Semester

Academic Theme: Specialty Nursing Foundations II

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 302

Maternal and Child Health Nursing II

4

C

NSC 301

NSC 304

Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing II

3

C

NSC 303

NSC 306

Community Health Nursing II

3

C

NSC 210

NSC 308

Nursing Management and Leadership I

2

C

None

NSC-E1

Specialisation Elective (choose one; see options below)

3

E

Varies

Total Units This Semester

15

Specialisation / Pathway Options

Code

Option Title

NUT-A01

Adult Health Nursing Fundamentals

NUT-B01

Maternal and Child Health Nursing Fundamentals

NUT-C01

Mental Health/Psychiatric Nursing Fundamentals

NUT-D01

Community Health Nursing Fundamentals

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Maternal/child health nursing continuation; mental health nursing continuation; community health nursing; introductory nursing management and leadership.

Coursework Requirements

Maternal/child nursing care plans

Community health nursing project

Leadership case study

Semester Project: "Community Health Outreach"

Students plan and participate in a supervised community health outreach/education exercise within the Oro (Oron) Nation area.

Semester 7 — 400 Level, First Semester

Academic Theme: Advanced Specialty Nursing Practice I

Students formally declare one specialisation pathway at the start of Semester 7, carried through Semester 8: (A) Critical Care Nursing, (B) Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing, (C) Advanced Psychiatric Nursing, or (D) Public Health Nursing.

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 401

Advanced Medical-Surgical Nursing

4

C

NSC 305

NSC 403

Midwifery and Reproductive Health I

3

C

NSC 302

NSC 405

Nursing Research Project I

2

C

NSC 307

NSC 407

Professional Practice and Ethics III

1

C

NSC 309

NSC 409

Health Informatics for Nurses

2

C

None

NSC-P1

Pathway Course (choose track A, B, C or D)

3

E

Declared pathway

Total Units This Semester

15

Specialisation / Pathway Options

Code

Option Title

A - NSC 411

Critical Care Nursing

B - NSC 413

Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing

C - NSC 415

Advanced Psychiatric Nursing

D - NSC 417

Public Health Nursing Practice

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Advanced medical-surgical nursing; midwifery and reproductive health; nursing research project; health informatics; declared specialisation pathway course.

Coursework Requirements

Advanced nursing care plans

Midwifery practical logbook

Research project proposal

Pathway case study

Semester 8 — 400 Level, Second Semester

Academic Theme: Advanced Specialty Nursing Practice II

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 402

Midwifery and Reproductive Health II

3

C

NSC 403

NSC 404

Nursing Management and Leadership II

2

C

NSC 308

NSC 406

Nursing Research Project II

3

C

NSC 405

NSC 408

Nursing Jurisprudence and Professional Regulation (NMCN)

2

C

NSC 309

NSC-P2

Pathway Course (continuation of declared track)

3

E

Declared pathway

Total Units This Semester

13

Specialisation / Pathway Options

Code

Option Title

A - NSC 412

ICU/Emergency Nursing Practicum

B - NSC 414

Labour Ward and Neonatal Practicum

C - NSC 416

Community Mental Health Practicum

D - NSC 418

Primary Health Care Practicum

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Midwifery continuation; nursing management and leadership; nursing research project continuation; professional regulation; pathway practicum.

Coursework Requirements

Midwifery practical logbook

Research project draft report

Pathway practicum logbook

Semester 9 — 500 Level, First Semester

Academic Theme: Professional Integration I

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 501

Nursing Education and Clinical Teaching

2

C

None

NSC 503

Health Policy and Nursing Management

2

C

NSC 404

NSC 505

Comprehensive Clinical Posting I

4

C

NSC 401

NSC 507

Final Year Research Project I

3

C

NSC 406

NSC 509

Disaster and Emergency Nursing

2

C

None

Total Units This Semester

13

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Focus

Clinical teaching skills; health policy; comprehensive clinical posting across specialties; final year research project; disaster/emergency nursing.

Coursework Requirements

Clinical teaching exercise

Comprehensive posting logbook

Research project data collection

Semester 10 — 500 Level, Second Semester

Academic Theme: Integrated Professional Readiness

Registered Courses

Code

Course Title

Units

Status

Prerequisite

NSC 502

Comprehensive Clinical Posting II

4

C

NSC 505

NSC 504

Final Year Research Project II

3

C

NSC 507

NSC 506

Professional Practice, Licensure Preparation and Internship Readiness

2

C

NSC 408

NSC 508

Seminar in Nursing

1

C

None

NSC 599

Final Qualifying Examination (Theory and Clinical)

0

C

Pass/Fail

Total Units This Semester

10

Weekly Scheme of Work

Weeks

Topics / Learning Activities

Requirements

Complete comprehensive clinical posting; complete and defend final year research project; prepare for NMCN licensure examination and internship.

Graduation Portfolio Requirements

Transcript

Clinical posting logbooks across all specialties

Research project report

NMCN licensure examination readiness record

Professional development portfolio

B. Your Weekly Study Model

Plan your week across the following components:

Lectures — core teaching contact.

Tutorials — problem-solving and case discussion.

Laboratory/clinical/practical sessions.

Independent study — reading and revision.

Coursework — assignments, case reports and logbooks.

Group work — team-based case studies and ward/field exercises.

Maintain a personal Clinical Logbook and Professional Portfolio throughout your five years, consolidating care plans, clinical posting evaluations and reflective notes. You will need this evidence for NMCN licensure examination and professional registration.

C. What a Normal Teaching Semester Looks Like

A normal fifteen-week teaching semester generally follows this pattern:

Week(s)

What Happens

Week 1

Orientation / course introduction.

Weeks 2-5

Core theory and guided tutorials.

Week 6

Continuous assessment / test.

Weeks 7-10

Advanced theory plus laboratory/clinical/practical activities.

Week 11

Practical/coursework assessment.

Weeks 12-13

Integrated case-based/problem-based learning.

Week 14

Revision and case presentations.

Week 15

Final revision / course completion.

Examination period

As separately published by the University.

D. Recommended Textbooks and References

Use these as your core reading list across the programme. Your lecturers will indicate the specific chapters and editions relevant to each course in the weekly scheme.

D.1 B.NSc. Nursing Science

Fundamentals and Medical-Surgical Nursing

Potter, P.A., Perry, A.G., Stockert, P.A. and Hall, A.M. — Fundamentals of Nursing, Elsevier.

Brunner, L.S. and Suddarth, D.S. (eds. Hinkle, J.L. and Cheever, K.H.) — Brunner and Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing, Wolters Kluwer.

Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology for Nurses

Tortora, G.J. and Derrickson, B. — Principles of Anatomy and Physiology, Wiley.

Karch, A.M. — Focus on Nursing Pharmacology, Wolters Kluwer.

Maternal, Child and Midwifery Nursing

Lowdermilk, D.L., Perry, S.E. and Cashion, K. — Maternity and Women's Health Care, Elsevier.

Hockenberry, M.J. and Wilson, D. — Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children, Elsevier.

Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing

Videbeck, S.L. — Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, Wolters Kluwer.

Community Health Nursing

Stanhope, M. and Lancaster, J. — Public Health Nursing: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community, Elsevier.

Nursing Research, Leadership and Professional Practice

Polit, D.F. and Beck, C.T. — Nursing Research: Generating and Assessing Evidence for Nursing Practice, Wolters Kluwer.

Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) — Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses and Midwives, current edition.

E. Where to Get Further Help

This Student Handbook covers what you need to plan and succeed in each semester. Detailed course specifications, learning-outcome mapping and marking schemes for each course are held by your course lecturers in their course files, and can be requested from your Head of Department or Faculty Officer.