Connecting Communities and Curriculum in the BSc Nursing Degree Programme

Contribution to Society Module

About the Module

This five credit elective module aims to provide students with an opportunity to actively contribute to society in an area that is not directly related to nursing practice. Each year, about half of junior freshman and one third of senior freshman (approx. 170 total) plan, their own service-learning placement, define their own learning outcomes and proceed to negotiate, monitor and document the achievement of these outcomes. Organising and achieving the aims of the service-learning placement encourages students to develop and control an aspect of their education that they feel will contribute to their personal and professional development. On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Recognise the importance of networking with other health care and non-health care staff.
- Understand the importance and role of voluntary services to the community and peoples sense of wellbeing.
- Recognise and take responsibility for educational needs in relation to personal and professional development.
- Demonstrate organisational and negotiation skills.

The module is assessed based on the submission of a completed attendance sheet demonstrating 30 hours contact and signed by a person in authority, documentation outlining the organization profile and agreed learning outcomes and a 500 word reflective account of their experience with reference to how identified learning outcomes were achieved including relevant reading list.

Benefits

"This experience has given me a great sense of responsibility and has made me see the value and importance of team work and working together...I really enjoyed this placement and learned so much more than I thought possible.”

Nursing Student

Challenges

"I was nervous... because I hadn't done it before. I found it difficult for a couple of days but as time went on I got to know the other staff... and even though it was busy, I enjoyed it.”

Nursing Student

"The challenge for me as module leader was to provide sufficient appropriate information and instruction that ensured students experienced the realities of the commitment required... in a meaningful and realistic way.”

Module Coordinator

Tips for Colleagues

- Provide clear, specific written instructions to students about what is required of them.
- Ensure that someone is available to answer queries as students often need reassurance that they have chosen an appropriate service-learning placement.
- Ensure that there is an in-built mechanism that students are aware of that can confirm legitimacy of placements/time sheets etc.

For further information

Contact Dr. Catherine McCabe
Module Coordinator
School of Nursing and Midwifery
camcabe@tcd.ie

School of Nursing students are involved in various initiatives in the community for people with intellectual disabilities.

Students meet with community organizations in advance of service placements.

Students in their role as volunteers for the National Day of Volunteering.

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
COLÁISTE NA TRÍONÓIDE, BAILE ÁTHA CLAÍTH
THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN