

THE TABLET

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Collaborative Partner Newsletter

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PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS FOR NURS 351 AND 431

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September arrived with a bang, and we welcomed 72 new nursing students to our revised curriculum. As you are aware, the first year Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who have started into the revised curriculum are focusing on the concept of health and will be introduced to community much earlier in the program. This means that in January 2008 (Semester 2), the new class will start to work in the community.

What will it look like?

The students will work in groups of 9 with an instructor on a variety of projects in the community. Based on a service-learning model, the instructor will work closely with an agency to identify projects that will promote learning. Our aim is 'win-win'. We engage students in real projects that help them learn and apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to a variety of concerns.

At the same time we want to provide the agency and community with a deliverable that helps the agency meet their mandate.

What is the impact on learners in the 'current' curriculum?

What are we going to do about it?

The revised curriculum will have a significant impact on our current third year and fourth year community placements. To try and lessen the impact on our community agencies, we have decided to group the third and fourth year nursing students into focused streams, who may or may not be attached to a specific agency.

Whether students are at a specific agency or not will depend on you! If you would like a third year or fourth year nursing student to work with your agency or have a special project, then please contact our Practicum Liaison, Una Quinsey, and she will forward the request to the appropriate faculty member. quinseyu@mala.bc.ca

What are the proposed practice themes?

Currently there are three practice streams, loosely grouped into three themes: Addictions, Wellness and Environment. However, when the current first year students reach third year we will need six focused streams to accommodate the 72 students. We will wait to see what themes emerge in the next two years, but plan to have a First Nations Health stream and Homelessness and Poverty stream.

Why do we think it will work?

For the past two years, we have had groups of third and fourth year students working in the Addictions stream. They formed their own group, 'Faces of Addiction', whose aim is to facilitate "community awareness regarding addiction, while improving access to services and resources for individuals with addiction issues" (FOA, Moodle Website, para 1). These dynamic

students have been involved in a number of activities, from putting on community forums, to fundraising, to distributing winter clothes, shoes and socks to the homeless. They have lobbied federal, provincial and municipal politicians for better services for persons with addictions and even conducted research in our community using CHSRF funds. They have created rather remarkable social marketing videos that aim to change attitudes. Needless to say the learning has been significant as they become global citizens. To see an example of student work, we invite you to view Kristan Wald's music video on Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPooxfPNZ6s>. Kristan has been invited to enter her video in the Nanaimo Short Film Festival.

We are interested in feedback on our proposed new structure for practicum placements. Please contact Stephanie Buckingham with your questions, concerns or requests. Stephanie's email is buckings@mala.bc.ca.

ARE YOU A GRADUATE NURSE THINKING YOU MIGHT LIKE TO RETURN TO UNIVERSITY TO COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE?

Registered nurses who want to complete a degree are able to do so through Option B of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Currently the first course that RNs

are required to take is NURS 321: Bridge-In. Once registered nurses have completed NURS 321, they may join the generic students in semester 6, which is the second half of third year. NURS 321 is based on the 'current' curriculum. January 2007 marked the last class to enter our program under the 'current' curriculum. That class will be starting Semester 6, under the revised curriculum, in May 2009. That means that NURS 321 will 'time expire' and the last time you can take the bridge-in course is January 2009. So if you are interested in pursuing your BSN under the 'current' curriculum, you need to complete NURS 321 prior to May 2009 and aim to graduate by December 2010.

Information about Option B may be found at in the University-College's calendar at <http://www.mala.ca/calendar/UniversityDegreeCompletion/bscnursing.asp>. At this time, NURS 321 is offered as a directed study and is delivered using an online format, so that learners are able to keep working while beginning their degree.

Course available to Nurses: Nursing 462 (January to April 2008) Advanced Perspectives on Mental Health and Mental Illness

If you are interested in mental health and want to further your knowledge

in this field, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Malaspina-University-College is offering an upper level nursing elective in January 2008. The course provides nurses with an opportunity to explore the current literature and other resources to enhance their knowledge of mental health and mental illness. The focus will be on the exploration of different ways of knowing in relation to developing a practitioner's understanding of the complexity of issues facing people with mental health challenges. Using a health promotion approach, students will explore issues and trends across the lifespan focusing on a particular concept, population or context of practice. Participants will have the opportunity to spend half the course on a chosen area of interest. Examples of focus areas chosen by students in the past are: a) Issues, challenges and resources for children diagnosed with a mental illness; b) Exploration of homelessness from a global to regional perspective; c) Literature review on the complexity of dual diagnosis; d) Mental health promotion with adolescents. In a classroom setting, students will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and research on their particular area of focus. Evaluation for the course is determined at the beginning of the course between each student and the teacher. Registered Nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and 3rd and 4th year nursing students

are welcomed to apply. If you are not a student in the program, please contact our nursing advisor at 740-6246 for details on how to register. For more information about the course, please contact Jacqueline Fournier at 753-3245 local 2420.

FOND FAREWELLS

It is with joy and sadness that we have said “Happy Retirement” to both Erika Blakeman and Linda Cornell. In addition, Linda Shorting has headed off to Calgary for the next year and will be working at the University of Calgary. While we are pleased for our three colleagues; we are feeling a profound sense of loss. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Check out Malaspina’s new look at www.mala.ca.



Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues. Thank you.