



Republic of Namibia
Annotated Statutes

REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS SURVIVING IN TERMS OF

Health Professions Act 16 of 2024
section 95(10)

**Regulations relating to Approval of Minimum Requirements for
Education and Training leading to Bachelors Degree in Nursing
and Midwifery Science for Registration as a
Nurse and Midwife or Accoucheur**

Government Notice 182 of 2017

[\(GG 6361\)](#)

came into force on date of publication: 18 July 2017

These regulations were made in terms of section 59 read with section 18(1) of the Nursing Act 8 of 2004, which was repealed by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024. Pursuant to section 95(10) of the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024, they are deemed to have been made under that Act.

The Government Notice which publishes these regulations notes that they were made on the recommendation of the Nursing Council of Namibia.

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PART 1

DEFINITIONS

Definitions

1. In these regulations, a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, bears that meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates -

“academic year” means a period of training in a calendar year as determined by a tertiary education institution;

“comprehensive health care” means health care which is promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative;

“course of study” means a programme of education and training approved in terms of section 16(1) of the Act, leading to a qualification which confers on the holder of that qualification the right to register as a nurse, midwife or accoucheur;

“health resources” means health facilities personnel, material, finances, information and time;

“student” means a person enrolled or registered at an educational institution; and

“the Act” means the Nursing Act, 2004 (Act No. 8 of 2004).

[The Nursing Act 8 of 2004 has been replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]

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PART 2
CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND
QUALIFICATIONS OF LECTURERS

Conditions for approval of educational institution

2. The Council may in terms of section 16(4)(a) of the Act approve an educational institution, for the purpose of educating and training in nursing, midwifery or accoucheury professions, provided that the Council is satisfied with the minimum requirements of the curriculum, the standards of education and the examination prescribed by such an educational institution.

Qualifications of lecturers

3. (1) The following health practitioners may teach students -

- (a) nurses, midwives or accoucheurs registered as such under the Act;
- (b) pharmacists registered as such in terms of the Pharmacy Act, 2004 (Act No. 9 of 2004);

[The Pharmacy Act 9 of 2004 has been replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]

- (c) social workers or psychologists registered as such in terms of the Social Worker and Psychology Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004);

[The Social Work and Psychology Act 6 of 2004 has been replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024. The name of the Act is erroneously given as the "Social Worker and Psychology Act" in the provision above]

- (d) any allied health professional with a qualification of not less than four years and registered as such in terms of the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004); or

**[The Allied Health Professions Act 7 of 2004
has been replaced by the Health Professions Act 16 of 2024.]**

- (e) any other person who has the necessary experience to teach the course of study or to give training offered by the educational institution.

(2) A person who participates in the theoretical and clinical instruction of the students in the subjects nursing, midwifery, community health and mental health nursing must be registered with the Council and must have a post-graduate qualification in nursing education to the satisfaction of the Council.

(3) An owner, a manager or a person in charge of an educational institution for purposes of educating and training in nursing must -

- (a) be registered with the Council as a nurse, midwife or accoucheur;
- (b) have an additional qualification in nursing education; and

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- (c) have a nursing qualification that is a level higher than the highest qualification offered by the educational institution or if the highest qualification offered is a doctoral degree, a nursing qualification at an equal level.

PART 3
COURSE CONTENT

Curriculum for course of study

4. (1) The curriculum for the course of study at the educational institution must consist of the following subjects -

- (a) general nursing science;
 - (b) community health nursing science;
 - (c) applied biological sciences;
 - (d) ethos and professional practice;
 - (e) midwifery science;
 - (f) mental health science, and
 - (g) health service management.
- (2) The duration of study for each of the subjects must be -
- (a) not less than four academic years for general nursing science;
 - (b) not less than three academic years for community health nursing science;
 - (c) at least three academic years for applied biological sciences;
 - (d) not less than one academic year for ethos and professional practice;
 - (e) not less than three years academic years for midwifery science; and
 - (f) at least one academic year for mental health science.

(3) An educational institution must submit the curriculum for the course of study to the Council for approval in accordance with section 16(1) of the Act.

(4) The approach in the method of teaching of the subject referred to in subregulation (1) must be the integration of the various fields of study, particularly in their clinical application.

Duration of course of study

- 5. The duration of the course of study must be four years.

Requirements for admission to course of study

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6. A person who registers for the course of study is required to have a grade 12 certificate or any other equivalent qualification.

Objective of course of study

7. The objective of the course of study is to enable a nurse, midwife or accoucheur registered as such in terms of this Act to -

- (a) provide comprehensive health services to individuals, vulnerable groups, families and the community;
- (b) provide effective and comprehensive nursing and midwifery care that responds to the health needs of the community, including the referral of clients to other levels of health care;
- (c) initiate and participate in action-oriented research, and utilise the results to improve health care and service delivery;
- (d) plan and manage health resources efficiently for optimal health service delivery;
- (e) initiate and facilitate education for the community, clients, colleagues through effective communicative and inter-personal skills, according to needs; and
- (f) initiate and sustain intersectoral linkages with non-governmental organizations, churches, and other Ministries for health status improvement at community level.

PART 4

PRACTICALS, EXAMINATIONS AND COMPLETION OF COURSE OF STUDY

Theoretical and clinical instruction and practicals

8. (1) A student must throughout the course of study receive both theoretical and clinical instruction and must, undergo practicals in the subjects referred to in regulation 4.

- (2) The theoreticals must extend over a minimum of 2240 hours, divided as follows -
 - (a) 400 hours in general nursing science;
 - (b) 250 hours in community health nursing;
 - (c) 350 hours in midwifery science;
 - (d) 180 hours in ethos and professional practice;
 - (e) 120 hours in mental health nursing;
 - (f) 120 hours in health management;
 - (g) 620 hours in applied biological sciences, divided as follows:
 - (i) 120 hours in anatomy;
 - (ii) 120 hours in physiology;

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- (iii) 60 hours in applied biochemistry and biophysics;
- (iv) 60 hours in microbiology and parasitology;
- (v) 60 hours in pharmacology; and

[The hours listed in the subparagraphs add up to only 420 hours in total, not 620 hours as stated in paragraph (g).]

- (h) 200 hours in research relating to nursing practice.

(3) The clinical instruction and practical referred to in subregulation (1) must extend over a minimum of 2718 hours of which at least -

- (a) 940 hours must be in general nursing science, in:
 - (i) medical nursing including geriatric or oncology;
 - (ii) surgical nursing;
 - (iii) orthopaedic nursing;
 - (iv) paediatric nursing;
 - (v) gynaecology;
 - (vi) ear nose and throat;
 - (vii) out patient department (OPD);
 - (viii) casualty department;
 - (ix) operating room;
 - (x) principles of management; and
 - (xi) disaster management;
- (b) 800 hours must be in midwifery and neonatal, in:
 - (i) ante-natal care;
 - (ii) labour (1, 2, 3, 4 stages);
 - (iii) puerperium;
 - (iv) post natal care;
 - (v) new born baby; and
 - (vi) premature babies;

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- (c) a minimum of 99 hours on a number of cases in midwifery and neonatal, of which:
 - (i) 30 hours is in ante-natal patients examined;
 - (ii) 5 hours is in abnormal abdominal palpations and complications;
 - (iii) 5 hours is in number of pregnant women examined and counselled (pre and post counselling for HIV/AIDS) PMTCT;
 - (iv) 5 hours is in deliveries witnessed under supervision;
 - (v) 5 hours is in abnormal deliveries witnessed under supervision;
 - (vi) 5 hours is in witnessing of and assisting in repairing episiotomies;
 - (vii) 25 hours is in a number of parturient women personally attended by the student during first stage of labour (student must have been in actual attendance on the patient for the major part of the first stage of labour in which the patient was under surveillance of the delivery team);
 - (viii) 15 hours is in a number of vaginal examinations done by students;
 - (ix) 4 hours is in a number of partographs completed by student:
 - (aa) 2 hours in normal progress;
 - (bb) 2 hours in abnormal progress;
- (d) 12 hours is in a number of cases where students:
 - (i) assisted midwife with deliveries - 5 hours;
 - (ii) witnessed complicated deliveries (forceps, breech delivery, or vacuum extractions) - 5 hours;
 - (iii) assisted with caesarean section - 2 hours;
- (e) 95 hours in a number of deliveries by the student:
 - (i) 15 hours in the hospital;
 - (ii) 15 hours in a number of Apgar assessments done by the student;
 - (iii) 15 hours in a number of placenta examinations;
 - (iv) 10 hours in a number of physical examinations of the infant undertaken by the student for detection of physical abnormalities of the new born;
 - (v) 20 hours in a number of new born patients followed up by the student for at least two days after delivery;
 - (vi) 20 hours in a number of new born infants followed by the student for at least two days after delivery;

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- (f) 12 hours in a number of cases of infants nursed by the students:
 - (i) 5 hours with low birth weight infants;
 - (ii) 2 hours with baby at risk and sick new born;
 - (iii) 5 hours with post natal six weeks follow up;
- (g) 600 hours in community health nursing science:
 - (i) immunisation, family planning, tuberculosis or human immune deficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome;
 - (ii) monitoring of child under five years;
 - (iii) school health;
 - (iv) adolescent friendly services;
 - (v) assessment of all patients and prevention of diseases;
 - (vi) community assessment and involvement;
 - (vii) health information and nutritional needs assessment; and
 - (viii) family care and counselling.
- (h) 160 hours in mental health:
 - (i) mental health care in hospitals and clinics;
 - (ii) assessment of the mental health patient;
 - (iii) counselling of the mental health patient and the family; and
 - (iv) caring for the mental health patient in and out of health facilities.

(4) Every student must be allocated to night shift for a minimum period of three months during the course of their training.

(5) Every student must receive clinical instruction and clinical learning experiences in a health facility approved by the Council.

Examinations

9. An educational institution must, conduct examinations in all subjects referred to in regulation 4.

[The comma after the word “must” is superfluous.]

Completion and termination of course of study

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10. (1) Where a student -

- (a) successfully completes the course of study;
- (b) for any reason withdraws from the course of study before completing it; or
- (c) is transferred to another educational institution,

the Council must be informed within 30 days of such completion, withdrawal or transfer by the person in charge of the educational institution concerned

(2) The notice referred to in subregulation (1)(c) must contain a record of the theoretical and clinical training which the student has undergone.

PART 5
REGISTRATION

Registration

11. A student, who has passed the examination and complied with the requirements set out in these regulations, must be issued with a certificate of registration as a nurse, midwife or accoucheur on payment of a fee prescribed by the Council.

PART 6
LANGUAGE

Language of forms and documents

12. (1) Any form or document required to be submitted to the Council or to the Registrar in terms of these regulations must be, in the English language.

[The comma after the phrase “must be” is superfluous.]

(2) Any form or document referred to in subregulation (1) that is not in the English language must be accompanied by a translation, into English, acceptable to the Council.