



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

**NURSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY HEAD OFFICE**

**INITIAL EVALUATION AND
LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION**

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN NURSING

DECEMBER 2020

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: VA1109), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap 592) (AAVQO), was commissioned by the Nursing Services Department, Hospital Authority Head Office (“Operator”), a department of the Hospital Authority to conduct an Initial Evaluation and Learning Programme Accreditation Exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in AAVQO to determine whether the Operator meets the stated objectives and is competent to operate learning programmes that meet the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF/QF) Level 5 standard, and can be granted Initial Evaluation Status at QF Level 5; and
- (b) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in AAVQO to determine whether the programme of the Operator meets the stated objectives and QF Level 5 standard and can be offered as an accredited programme
 - (i) Professional Diploma in Nursing; and
- (c) To issue to the Operator accreditation report(s) setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) and (b) by HKCAAVQ.

1.2 The accreditation exercise was conducted according to the relevant accreditation guidelines referred to in the Service Agreement. A videoconference between the accreditation panel and representatives of the Operator (with virtual tour of the Operator’s training venues) took place on 15 and 16 October 2020.

2. HKCAAVQ’S DETERMINATION

Initial Evaluation

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that, the Operator is competent to achieve its stated objectives and to operate learning programmes meeting QF standard(s) at Levels 1 to 5, and can be granted Initial Evaluation (IE) status at QF Level 5 with a validity period of two years.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will, commence on the date specified below.

2.2.2 Within the two-year validity period for IE, the Operator must have at least one programme successfully accredited. If the Operator does not have a current accredited programme on the Qualifications Register (QR) after the end of the two-year validity period of their IE, the Operator will need to apply for an extension of their IE status at least three months before the validity period expires. An extension of up to 2 years may be granted. Only one extension of IE status will normally be allowed. If the Operator continues to gain successful Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA), their IE status will remain valid.

2.3 The determinations on the Initial Evaluation are specified as follows:

Name of Operator	Nursing Services Department, Hospital Authority Head Office 醫院管理局總辦事處護理服務部
Address of Operator	Hospital Authority Building, 147B Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong 香港九龍亞皆老街 147B 醫院管理局大樓
Highest QF Level of programme(s) which the Operator can operate upon successful learning programme accreditation	Level 5
Start date of 2-year validity period of Initial Evaluation (IE) accreditation status	1 September 2021
Scope of IE Accreditation Status	For operating local non-degree programmes in Hong Kong

2.4 Recommendation

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendation(s) for continuous improvement.

Recommendation 1

The Operator should review the membership composition of the HA Basic Nursing Education Quality Assurance Committee and HA Basic Nursing Education Central Committee to ensure effective functioning of their roles in monitoring the quality and curriculum of learning programmes.

Learning Programme Accreditation

2.5 HKCAAVQ has determined that, subject to the fulfilment of the conditions set out below, the Professional Diploma in Nursing meets the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 5, and can be offered as an accredited programme with a validity period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026.

2.6 Validity Period

2.6.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below.

2.6.2 The maintenance of the accreditation status within the specified validity period is subject to the fulfilment of all requirements set out in 2.8 by the specified fulfilment deadline.

2.7 The determinations on the Learning Programme Accreditation are specified as follows:

Name of Operator(s)	Nursing Services Department, Hospital Authority Head Office 醫院管理局總辦事處護理服務部
Name of Award Granting Body	Hospital Authority 醫院管理局
Title of Learning Programme	Professional Diploma in Nursing 護理學專業文憑
Title of Qualification(s) (Exit Award(s))	Professional Diploma in Nursing 護理學專業文憑
Primary Area of Study and Training	Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Nursing
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable
Industry	Not applicable
Branch	Not applicable
QF Level	Level 5
QF Credits	680

Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time, 4 years 6802 notional learning hours (including 3044 contact hours)
Intermediate Exit Award(s)	Not applicable
Validity Period	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026
Number of Enrolment(s)	1 enrolment per year
Maximum Number of New Students	Maximum of 300 learners per year Maximum of 100 learners per school
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Vocational Qualifications Pathway Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Notes to be indicated on the QR	This programme includes Field Study for 1400 hours to be conducted in 40 weeks. 此課程包括 40 星期的實習，佔 1400 小時。
Address of Teaching/ Training Venue(s)	(1) School of Nursing of Caritas Medical Centre, 111 Wing Hong Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon 九龍深水埗永康街 111 號明愛醫院普通科護士學校 (2) School of General Nursing of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 30 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon 九龍加士居道 30 號伊利沙伯醫院普通科護士訓練學校 (3) School of General Nursing of Tuen Mun Hospital Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories 新界屯門青松觀路 23 號屯門醫院普通科護士學校

2.8 Condition(s) (including pre-conditions for obtaining the HKCAAVQ accreditation status as applied for within the validity period as specified in the above table; and requirements for maintenance of the accreditation status within the validity period)

Requirements	Date of Fulfilment
<p><u>Requirement 1</u></p> <p>The Operator is to conduct an interim review to evaluate the operation of the “Professional Diploma in Nursing” for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the proposed curriculum, in particular, students’ acquisition of the required psychology and sociology concepts and their applications in nursing subjects.</p> <p>The Operator is required to submit to HKCAAVQ on or before 31 December 2022 the interim review report for the “Professional Diploma in Nursing”, showing the details of students’ performance, stakeholders’ feedback, and improvement measures conducted.</p>	<p>31 December 2022</p>
<p><u>Requirement 2</u></p> <p>The Operator is to develop relevant tools to facilitate the staff to understand the performance requirements for the clinical assessments on Aseptic Technique, Administration of Medications and Professional Nursing Competencies in the different Field Studies. Moreover, training on using the tools in conducting assessments and assessing students’ performance should be provided to the relevant staff.</p> <p>The Operator is to provide to HKCAAVQ the relevant tools, details of the training and records of staff participation in the training on or before 31 December 2022.</p>	<p>31 December 2022</p>

2.9 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the Programme continues to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other things, the Operator's fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Hospital Authority (HA), a statutory body established under the Hospital Authority Ordinance in December 1990, is responsible for managing all public hospitals in Hong Kong. It currently manages a Head Office, 43 public hospitals/institutions, 49 specialist outpatient clinics and 73 general outpatient clinics.
- 3.2 HA has been offering the accredited Higher Diploma in Nursing programme (HDN) at QF Level 4 since 2008 for training of Registered Nurses. To cater for the growing healthcare demands and increasing community expectations on nursing services, HA decided to enhance the pre-registration nursing education by launching the Professional Diploma in Nursing programme (PDN) at QF Level 5.

4. PROGRAMME DETAIL

The following is the programme information provided by the Operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives

- Develop students with contemporary theory and knowledge foundation for providing holistic nursing care in various levels and healthcare settings;
- Equip students with mastery skills and clinical competency in providing holistic nursing care to clients from all ages and their families across the lifespan in primary, secondary and tertiary levels;
- Nurture students with caring attitude, generic attributes and competencies for making reasoned decision in a variety of health care settings; and
- Prepare students for registration with the NCHK as Registered Nurses (General).

4.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Programme, learners should be able to:

- Integrate and apply the nursing process as a clinical reasoning approach for holistic and individualised client-centred care appropriate to the client's physical, psychosocial, cultural and spiritual contexts;
- Apply ethical and legal principles and uphold professional standards in provision of nursing care;
- Develop an empathetic and caring attitude and facilitate therapeutic communication to the individuals, families, aggregates and the community;
- Demonstrate effective communication and work collaboratively with clients, and their families and the multidisciplinary team;
- Act as client advocate and provide health education and promotion in meeting the health needs of individuals, groups, families and communities;
- Integrate leadership and management skills in the provision of quality client care;
- Formulate care plan by utilising research findings to support evidence-based nursing practice; and

- Develop all-rounded attributes in the areas of life-long learning, global outlook, critical and creative thinking, social responsibility, cultural appreciation, team work and leadership.

4.3 Programme Structure

Subject	QF Credits
Year 1 Term 1	680
1. English Language *	
2. Communication	
3. Fundamental Concepts of Health and Nursing	
4. Health Education and Health Promotion	
5. Foundations of Nursing Therapeutics I	
6. Human Anatomy and Physiology I *	
Year 1 Term 2	
7. Human Anatomy and Physiology II *	
8. Chinese Language *	
9. Foundations of Nursing Therapeutics II	
10. Mental Health Nursing	
11. Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	
12. Gerontological Nursing	
Year 2 Term 1	
13. Microbiology in Nursing *	
14. Numeracy and Information Technology Literacy *	
15. Nursing Therapeutics I	
16. Health Assessment	
17. Field Study 1	
Year 2 Term 2	
18. Chinese Medicinal Nursing and Complementary and Alternative Medicine *	
19. Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning	
20. Nursing Therapeutics II	
21. Paediatric and Adolescent Nursing	
22. Obstetric Nursing	
23. Field Study 2	
Year 3 Term 1	
24. Applied Psychology *	
25. Community Health Nursing	
26. Nursing Therapeutics III	
27. Field Study 3	
Year 3 Term 2	
28. Foundations of Nursing Research #	
29. Ethical and Legal Aspects in Health Care #	
30. Nursing Therapeutics IV	
31. Field Study 4	
Year 4 Term 1	
32. Sociology of Health *	

Subject	QF Credits
33. Management and Leadership in Nursing and Health Care	
34. Integrative Nursing Care	
35. Field Study 5	
Year 4 Term 2	
36. Field Study 6	
Total	680

* Subjects taught by the CIHE

Subjects co-taught by the SONs and CIHE

4.4 Graduation Requirements

- Accumulation of 145 credits;
- Having a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or above at the end of the programme;
- Passing all field study evaluations and clinical skill evaluations including Aseptic Technique, Administration of Medications and Professional Nursing Competencies; and
- Fulfilling all the programme requirements as stipulated in the Definitive Document and the Clinical Learning Portfolio.

4.5 Admission Requirements

- Fluent in both written English and Chinese, and oral English and Cantonese; and

For applicants with Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) results

- HKALE with Grade E or above in one subject, or HKALE Advanced Supplementary Level (AS-Level) with Grade E in two subjects or above; and
- Passed five subjects in HKCEE, or equivalent, details are as below:
 - (a) English Language (Syllabus B) at Grade D or above, or English Language (Syllabus A) at Grade B or above, or English Language at Level 3 or above;
 - (b) Chinese Language at Grade E (Level 2) or above;
 - (c) Any one science subject from the following at Grade E or above: Biology, Chemistry, Human Biology, Mathematics, Physics;
 - (d) Any one other subject at Grade E or above: Accommodation and Catering Services, Additional Mathematics, Biology, Buddhist Studies, Chemistry, Chinese History, Chinese Literature, Commerce, Computer and Information Technology, Design and Technology, Design and Technology (Alternative Syllabus), Economics, Economics & Public Affairs, Electronics and Electricity, English Literature, French, Geography, Government and Public Affairs, Graphical Communication, History, Home Economics (Food, Home and Family), Human Biology, Integrated Humanities, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Principles of Accounts, Putonghua, Religious Studies, Science and Technology, Social Studies, Visual Arts, Word Processing and Business Communication (English);

- (e) Any one other subject at Grade E or above;
- (f) Any one of the subjects must be at Grade C or above (or Level 3 for English Language or Chinese Language) or above.

For applicants with Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) results

- have a minimum of five subjects in HKDSE, or equivalent, or any recognised qualification above. The five compulsory subjects required are:
 - (a) four Core Subjects, with English Language and Chinese Language at Level 3 or above, and Mathematics and Liberal Studies at Level 2 or above; and
 - (b) one Elective Subject from Category A – New Senior Secondary Subjects at Level 2 or above.

5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

- 5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.
- 5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has/have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has/have not been approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.
- 5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.
- 5.1.4 The accreditation status of the Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Variation or Withdrawal.
- 5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.4 Please refer to Cap 592A (www.elegislation.gov.hk) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of the AAVQO and can be accessed from the QF website at: www.hkqf.gov.hk.

5.3 Qualifications Register

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the QR at www.hkqr.gov.hk for recognition under the QF. The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.
- 5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

HKCAAVQ Report No.: 20/135