



Course Code NUTR-535P	Course Title Professional Practices for Dietitians I	Credits (ECTS) 7.5
Department Life and Health Sciences	Semester Fall	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Dietetics/Nutrition	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 1 st year	Lecturer Dr Eleni Andreou
Mode of Delivery N/A	Work Placement Yes (254 hours)	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Develop an understanding of the role of the clinical dietitian with a specific focus on starting to gather and interpret basic patient-related information.
- Integrate theoretical learning about microbiology and catering into a healthcare context.
- Give an overview of the role and impact of communication between health professionals and patients and relatives
- Introduce the key ethical concepts of confidentiality, truth telling and autonomy
- Demonstrate the explicit link between ethical practice and effective communication
- Outline some of the problems in communication between healthcare professionals, patients and relatives
- Outline how communications between health professionals and patients affect patient outcomes.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. The organisation and structure of the workplace and the role of the dietitian within a team in the health service or other healthcare settings.
2. The application of the principles of microbiology in clinical, food preparation and food service settings.
3. Practical and theoretical aspects of catering in healthcare settings which impact on nutritional intake and wellbeing.
4. Develop appropriate interactions with patients demonstrating an ability to respect their rights, dignity and individuality in accordance with appropriate standards.
5. Obtain patient-related information including social and medical histories, medical diagnosis, anthropometry, biochemistry and prescribed medication from a variety of sources and provide a basic interpretation of these.
6. Take a reliable diet history from patients and use this to identify the nutritional adequacy of their intake.

Course Contents:

Students will be supported in achieving the learning outcomes through a range of activities which all placement providers will facilitate. These will include: " Initiating communication with patients and developing appropriate interactions " Taking diet histories and analysing the food and nutritional content " Obtaining patient-related information and providing a basic interpretation of it " Exploring the application of microbiology in a clinical setting, e.g. Control of Infection Policy " Exploring the application of microbiology in a catering setting, e.g. food hygiene practice " Observing and reflecting on the role of the dietitian in healthcare teams including communication and adherence to professional standards Students will be supported with briefing sessions prior to placement and debriefing session to enable reflection on their learning. This course/ placement provides a foundation to practice education, building on theoretical concepts delivered through University-based courses and facilitating application in a healthcare setting. Placement activities will include initiating communication with patients and developing appropriate interactions that demonstrate respect for patients in accordance with the HPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics, HPC Standards of Proficiency and CYDNA (Cyprus Dietetic and Nutrition Association) and CyRBFFSTD(Cyprus Registration Board for Food Scientists and Technologists and Dietitians) Code of Professional Conduct; taking diet histories and gaining familiarity with commonly consumed foods and a range of portion sizes; analysing diet histories and other food records by estimation and using food tables and nutrient analysis software; observing the application of microbiological theory in a clinical setting, e.g. Control of Infection, and in food preparation and food service, e.g. food hygiene practice; gaining familiarity with patient records including medical ± nursing ± dietetic ± shared team notes ± other record systems and using these to locate medical diagnoses, biochemical results and prescribed medication; interpreting medical diagnoses,

biochemical results and prescribed medication through use of appropriate texts and other resources; collecting anthropometric data including height, weight and waist circumference; calculating and interpreting body mass index and other anthropometric measurements against reference standards. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, to work in a team as well as individually and to seek and accept guidance.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Placement

Assessment Methods:

This placement will provide a maximum of 254 placement hours. This placement-based course will be assessed using the level 4 placement assessment form. The Practice Education Placement Assessment must be passed at 60% to be able to pass the module. In addition irrespective of the overall mark, 60% of the underpinning learning outcomes must be passed at 60% or above. The assessment is made up of 4 criteria: Interpersonal skills/communication (30%); professionalism (30%); clinical reasoning; (20%); dietetic intervention (20%)

Coursework - Critical review of clinical placement	100%
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Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Holland B	McCance and Widdowson's The Composition of Foods		6 th	
Dept of Health	Dietary Reference Values	RSC	-	
Thomas and Bishop	Manual of Dietetic Practice	HMSO		
Vera Todorovic and Ann Micklewright	Pocket Guide to Clinical Nutrition	PEN Group Publications	4 th Edition 2011	ISBN: 978-0-9529869-2-8
FSA	Food Portion Sizes		1988	
Sylvia Escott-Stump	Nutrition and Diagnosis – Related care	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins	6 th edition 2008	

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Gable	Counselling skills for dietitians	Blackwell	2007	
BDA	Getting started in research and audit			0952986906
Henley & Schott	Culture, religion and patient care in a multi-ethnic society – a handbook for professionals		1999	