



Course Code NUTR-565P	Course Title Professional Practices for Dietitians II	Credits (ECTS) 7.5
Department Life and Health Sciences	Semester Spring	Prerequisites NUTR-535P
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:

- Communicate effectively with patients, carers and other professionals
- Develop an understanding of the role of the dietitian in the promotion of health
- Demonstrate the ability to function in clinical practice
- Build upon and integrate learning undertaken in previous modules
- 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:

- Have a knowledge and understanding of the: * varied forms of documentation encountered in clinical practice * need to adapt verbal and written communication in response to the varied situations encountered in clinical practice * impact of effective communication on professional relationships * demands of clinical practice required to

achieve the learning outcomes specific to the 2nd clinical placement assessment

- Be able to: * demonstrate a professional attitude towards patients, carers and other colleagues * communicate effectively with patients, carers and other professionals using language appropriate to the clinical context * assess the health education needs of an individual or group * evaluate a learning experience designed to meet the health needs of an individual or group * contribute, at an appropriate level, to inter-professional decision making in order to enhance practice
- Understand the meaning of professional behaviour in a healthcare context - including the requirements of the Health Professions Council (HPC) Standards of conduct, performance and ethics.
- Be aware of the different roles of Registered Dietitians.
- Be aware of the importance of evidence-based practice in dietetics
- Understand the principles and purpose of research, audit, evaluation and systematic reviews in clinical nutrition and dietetic practice.
- Have the knowledge and skills necessary for the practice of dietetics in acute and community settings.
- Be competent to practice as a dietitian having achieved the Standards of Proficiency for Dietitians as described by the Health Professions Council.

Course Contents:

This clinical education module focuses upon effective communication in practice. Written and verbal communication as well as the role of dietitians in the promotion of health will be explored through the design, delivery and evaluation of an appropriate learning experience to meet the health needs of an individual or group. Students will undertake the module in a variety of clinical settings providing them with the opportunity to develop their communication skills with patients, carers and other professionals within a range of specialities and clinical environments.

Students will be allocated practice placements within clinical settings appropriate to the level of study and profile of the individual student. Whilst undertaking this period of clinical education, the focus of the student's learning will be the importance of effective communication in practice, drawing upon both formal theory and clinical experience to highlight issues raised. Designated clinical educators will facilitate the student's ability to communicate effectively with both patients and professionals in written and verbal form, reflecting upon situations in which they encounter barriers to communication. Students will be encouraged by both clinical educators and academic staff, to evaluate a learning experience designed to meet the health needs of an individual or group, understanding the role of the dietitian and the importance of effective communication in health promotion.

Learning activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Group work, Placement

Assessment Methods:

This course will provide a maximum of 254 placement hours. Further Details:
Coursework consists of two components:

1. Practice education placement assessment (75%) made up of 4 core areas: Interpersonal skills/communication (25%); professionalism (25%); clinical reasoning; (25%); dietetic intervention (25%). Each core area of the practice education placement assessment must be passed at 60%. In addition no more than one underpinning learning outcome may be failed pre core area.

2. Viva (25%) 10-15 minutes Practice Education placement assessment must be passed at 60%

Placement Assessment	75%
ViVA	25%

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	