



Certificate courses as academic further education in health and nursing care

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Background

The professional field of nursing is under permanent change. Thus there is a growing need for nursing specialists to improve their qualifications. Due to the increasing lack of specialists, many employers aren't able to send their professionals to long-time further education offers. The needs for further education and the requirements for developing certificate courses have been researched within a mixed-method study. Specific conditions like shift work and the high percentage of female employees with family duties have been considered. As a result, six short term certificate courses with a duration of 150 hours have been developed and are currently being tested. With the adoption and possible integration of these courses into the study program, they will be recognized with 6 ECTS in the bachelor program Applied Nursing Science and graduate with a certificate or a participation certificate. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Title	Description	Format
Diversity Management	Participants consider health needs in terms of different traditionally anchored explanatory approaches. They recognize individual problems and potential conflicts and select and apply on this basis curative, rehabilitative and palliative support services in a need-oriented manner.	Presence and Distance-Learning, Educational Leave
Multi-Professional Emergency Management	Participants acquire a broad range of knowledge regarding emergency causes, causes of medical errors and patient safety strategies of management.	Presence and Distance-Learning
Transsectoral Hygiene Management	Participants are given broad and integrated knowledge of the standardized approach to hygiene management, including personal hygiene, hygiene of medicine and care, and infection intervention.	Presence and Distance-Learning
Microteaching for Practical Instructors	With the method of microteaching, Practical Instructors practice simulated teaching-learning situations, which are videotaped and reflected together. They enhance their skills in dealing with difficult situations of instruction.	Presence and Distance-Learning
Sensitive Patient Care of People with Dementia	Participants are introduced to the Silviahemmet Philosophy, which is based on activation of resources, a need-oriented view of those with dementia and emotional support of family members and supervising staff as well.	Presence and Distance-Learning, Educational Leave
Consulting Competence	Theoretical basics of counseling and supervision are taught. Participants apply concepts of nursing consulting purposefully and reflect them by taking their own practical experiences into account.	Presence, guest student program during the semester

Advantages of Certificate Courses as academic further education

- **Organization**
 - Highly flexible
 - Part time study
 - Modular structure of contents
 - Short term offers (1-2 Days)
- **Contents**
 - Quick adjustment to current topics
 - Development of new courses according to needs
 - Consideration of the latest scientific findings
- **Social Relevance**
 - Recognition of credits as a part of university degree programs
 - Offer an academic entry, support permeability
 - Reduce inhibitions towards universities
 - Open up the universities to non-traditional students
 - Implementation of evidence-based knowledge improves health-care quality

Challenges of Certificate Courses as academic further education

- **Conceptual Development**
 - Inhibitions towards universities as academic institutions from non-traditional students
 - Special support and care services to support the compatibility of study, work and family needs
 - continuous adjustment to the rapidly changing demands from nursing practice
 - Support the transferring of what has been learned into practice
- **Requirements for Participants**
 - High commitment and discipline
 - Financial support and time for further education from their employers
 - Availability of technical knowledge and equipment

German universities are often unknown as a place for further education and must prevail over other established education and training providers.

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