**Thailand**

**Standard Qualifications Framework**

**for**

***Undergraduate Program in Nursing Science***

**Standard Qualifications Framework for Undergraduate Program in Nursing Science**

**1.** **Name of the program:** Nursing Science

**2.** **Title of degree:** Bachelor of Nursing Science (B. N. S.)

**3. Characteristics of the program:**

Nursing Science is the professional program that practice directly to care for life and health of people with attentively kindness and generosity. The profession needs arts and science in nursing, midwifery, related sciences, and evidences based to provide holistic cares for individuals, families, and community in all health dimensions and health statuses throughout lifespan, by concerning cultural diversity of clients, the ever-changing society and advanced nursing science and medical technology. Nursing practice must adhere to professional ethics and recognize the equality of human values. Therefore, teaching and learning activities are focusing on nursing practice using simulated scenario and genuine situations to ensure safety of clients’ life.

**4. Desirable characteristics of graduates:**

1. Be knowledgeable in nursing science, midwifery, and related science; and be able to apply them to nursing practice appropriately

2. Be able to perform nursing cares holistically focusing on safety of clients throughout lifespan, all health statuses, all levels of health care agencies, and cultural diversity by using arts and science in nursing, midwifery, and related science under the law and professional ethics

3. Be able to communicate in Thai and English languages effectively

4. Be able to think systemically, creatively, and critically as well as make decision, and solve the problems creatively

5. Have knowledge and digital competence in searching information for practicing, communicating, and working with others

6. Be able to use research methodology and creating innovation process for health and nursing problem solving

7. Demonstrate leadership and management skill in working with interdisciplinary health care teams and others related persons

8. Possess moral and ethics, respect human dignity, have responsibility and kindness

9. Have self-directed learning ability, and be enthusiastic in unremitting self-development

10. Be able to do numerical analysis, and use statistics in the profession appropriately

11. Express good attitudes toward nursing profession, realize the professional values and nurses’ rights

12. Be good citizen in democratic system under the Monarch and the accountable citizen for the nation, region, and global community

13. Have cultural competence and be able to work in cultural diversity environment

**5. Standard learning outcomes:**

There are six learning outcomes that relevant to Thailand Qualifications Framework for higher education and desirable characteristics of nursing science graduates as followings:

***5.1 Morals and Ethics***

5.1.1 Demonstrate faithfulness, discipline, and punctuality.

5.1.2 Have self and social accountability.

5.1.3 Be able to use ethical consideration and moral discretion in handling with ethical issues.

5.1.4 Respect human rights, values, individual difference, cultural diversity as well as human dignity of others and themselves

5.1.5 Exhibit public service mindedness and liability for societal benefits

5.1.6 Show positive attitude toward nursing profession and realize the professional value and nurses’ rights.

***5.2 Knowledge***

5.2.1 Be knowledgeable and understandable in bio basic science including social and human science, mathematics, and health sciences as well as the sciences that promote the skills for 21st century and holistic humanity

5.2.2 Be knowledgeable and understandable in nursing and midwifery sciences widely and systematically.

5.2.3 Be knowledgeable and understandable in the national health system and factors influencing health system.

5.2.4 Have knowledge, recognizing in the current nursing research and utilizing research results in nursing practice.

5.2.5 Have knowledge and understanding in nursing administration and management

5.2.6 Have knowledge and understanding in professional and related laws, moral and professional ethics, including patients’ rights.

5.2.7 Have knowledge, understanding, and utilizing selected digital technologies appropriately for the characteristics of working, communication and its receivers.

***5.3 Cognitive skills***

5.3.1 Be able to search information from various sources, analyze and utilize the selected data for referencing in knowledge development and creative problem solving.

5.3.2 Be able to think systematically, creatively, and critically in order to find new problem-solving methods for nursing practice and identify their outcomes and impacts.

5.3.3 Be able to use the scientific method, research and innovation process for problem solving and the studying of health problems.

***5.4 Interpersonal skills and responsibility***

5.4.1 Positively interact with clients, colleagues, and related persons

5.4.2 Be able to work as a leader and team member in various contexts and situations

5.4.3 Be able to express ideas/opinion rationally and respect other people’s opinion

5.4.4 Participate in professional and social development continuously

***5.5 Numerical Analysis, Communication and Information Technology Skills***

5.5.1 Be able to apply mathematics and statistics in working

5.5.2 Be able to communicate proficiently in Thai and English languages

5.5.3 Be able to utilize information technology effectively and ethically

5.5.4 Be able to communicate with clients to ensure obtaining safely health services

***5.6 Professional skills***

 5.6.1 Be able to perform holistic nursing and midwifery cares to promote clients’

safely based on evidence, laws, and professional ethics

 5.6.2 Be able to apply nursing process in nursing and midwifery practices.

 5.6.3 Perform nursing and midwifery cares for clients with mercy, compassion, and kindness by concerning to patient’s rights and cultural diversity.

 5.6.4 Be able to practice nursing skills in the simulated and actual situations.

The learning outcomes stated in Standard Qualifications Framework for undergraduate program in nursing science are the guidelines for the learning outcomes in the curriculum/program level (TQF2). Each educational institute has to set the learning outcomes in the program level that are in line with its philosophy and objectives of curriculum and assign the responsibility to all subjects through learning outcomes mapping. However, the learning outcomes set by the institute have to serve the health needs of people, employers or stakeholders. For the advantages of educational management in the institution and the international standard accreditation, the institutions have the options to set the learning outcomes and its mapping for the courses according to the following guideline:

***Guideline 1***

Set the learning outcomes in the curriculum (TQF2) that are in accordance with philosophy, objective of curriculum, the institutional desirable characteristics of graduates by utilizing or referencing the6 domains of learning outcomes stated in the standard qualifications framework for undergraduate nursing program (TQF1). Then, these learning outcomes are used to allocate responsibility to all subjects in the curriculum through learning outcomes mapping. **Or**

***Guideline 2***

Set the learning outcomes in the curriculum (TQF2) that are in accordance with philosophy, objective of curriculum, the desirable characteristics of graduates set forth by institution, then, these learning outcomes are used to allocate responsibility to all subjects in the curriculum through learning outcomes mapping. After that, the institution have to declare or set up the additional table to display the relationship between the learning outcomes set up by the institution and the six learning outcomes stated in the Standard Qualifications Framework for undergraduate program in Nursing Science.

**6. Related Professional Organization:**

 Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC)

**7. Curriculum Structure:**

 The curriculum structure of nursing science program has to be in compliance with the related program standard criteria and regulations, current Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria of Ministry of Education and Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council.

 Total number of credits is at least 120 credits as stated in the current Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria. The proportions of minimum credits of each course are as follow:

***7.1 General Education Courses***

General Education Courses aim to promote the complete development of human being and having necessary skills for the 21st century. The teaching learning management of each course should be integrated comprehensive content within one subject and should not be the continued or advanced subject. Most importantly, the basic subject of Specialized Courses should not be included into the General Education Courses. The total numbers of credits of General Education Courses are not less than 30 credits.

***7.2 Specialized Courses***

Specialized courses mean the Basic Professional Courses and Nursing Professional Courses which focus on knowledge and nursing skills of students. The subjects that are not related to basic or profession are not allowed to include in the specialized courses. The total numbers of credits are not less than 72 credits.

7.2.1 The theory courses are not less than 24 credits. The teaching-learning period for one credit is not less than 15 hours.

7.2.2 The total credits of the practicum courses should not less than the requirement of the TNMC. The teaching-learning for one credit of practicum is not less than 45 hours excluding the nursing practicum hours and subject in simulation laboratory.

The total subjects for maternal and child nursing, midwifery, and family planning both theory and practicum are not less than 12 credits in which the practicum courses are not less than 6 credits.

***7.3 Free Elective Courses***

Free Elective Courses mean the courses that focus on the knowledge and learning interested by the students. Students are given opportunity to choose the subjects in their respective department or other schools to gain knowledge or various skills. The total credits are not less than 6 credits.

**8. Main contents:**

Main contents of Professional courses consist of the contents in Basic Professional Courses and Nursing Professional Courses.

***8.1 The Basic Professional Courses*** means the subjects that have contents related to and being the foundation of nursing profession such as Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Parasitology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Biostatistics, Developmental psychology, Nutrition, and Epidemiology.

***8.2 The Professional Courses*** means the subjects that are necessary for nursing and midwifery profession. The contents of these subjects cover health promotion, disease prevention, nursing therapeutic, and rehabilitation. The subjects include palliative care, acute care, critical care and chronic care both in adult nursing and gerontology nursing, child and adolescent nursing, psychology nursing and mental health, community nursing, primary medical care, maternal and child nursing, midwifery, nursing administration, health assessment, concept of health and nursing theory, nursing informatics, nursing research, and laws and professional ethics.

The aforementioned contents of Basic Professional Courses and Nursing Professional Courses may be integrated into each subject or set up as specific courses. However, the curriculum must contain adequate contents and in appropriate proportion according to the learning outcome mapping of each course.

**9. Teaching Strategies and Learning Outcome Evaluation:**

***9.1 Teaching Strategies***

The teaching-learning is focused on student-centered approach and promotion of students’ self-directed learning ability. The students have to actively participate in the teaching-learning process. The teaching strategies include using variety of teaching methods and align with the learning outcomes stated in each subject.

***9.2 Strategies for Learning Outcomes Evaluation***

To accurately measure learning achievement of students, the measurement and evaluation methods have to be systematically performed and aligned with learning outcome of each subject.

**10. Verification of Learning Achievement:**

The educational institution has to set up the system and mechanism for verification of program achievement and learning outcomes to ensure that the students and graduates meet required learning outcomes in all six domains as stated in the curriculum and the standard Qualification Framework of Nursing Science. The verification is required as a part of internal quality assurance both in program and school levels.

***10.1 Course Verification***

The educational institution has to verify learning outcomes of students both in theoretical and practical subjects according to the system and mechanism to ensure that the students achieve the learning outcomes as expected. The institutions have to state the course verification system and mechanism in the curriculum.

***10.2 Program Verification***

 To ensure the learning outcomes achievement of the graduates as stated in the curriculum, the institutions have to verify the learning outcomes of graduates covering all six domains. The verification of learning achievement of the graduates can be assessing through various sources and with all stakeholders. The institutions have to state the program verification system and mechanism in the curriculum.

**11 The Qualification of the Students and Credit Transfer:**

***11.1 The qualification of the students***

11.1.1 Complete at least high school grade 12 in Science-Mathematic major or equivalence

11.1.2 Be Physically and mentally healthy and absence of communicable diseases or any health issues impeding learning

11.1.3 Other qualifications required by learning educational institution

***11.2 Credit transfer***

The eligibility for credit transfer is considered according to the rules and regulations of the concerned institution.

**12 Faculty members and teaching learning support staffs:**

The number and qualifications of program faculty members have to be complied with the notifications of the Ministry of Education regarding the current Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria and the Implementation Guidelines for Higher Education Program Standard Criteria including professional nursing standards of the Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC)

***12.1 Qualifications of program faculty members***

12.1.1 Being full time faculty members

12.1.2 Obtaining at least a Master of Nursing Science or a Master’s degree in health related fields after holding baccalaureate degree in nursing science and having at least 2 years of clinical nursing experiences

12.1.3 Holding the valid nursing and midwifery license (1st class) or nursing license (1st class) granted by TNMC. For faculty members who teach maternal and child health or midwifery subjects, they must hold the valid nursing and midwifery license (1st class)

12.1.4 Having at least 1 year of teaching experiences in nursing educational institution

12.1.5 Having academic works which is not related to educational requirement for graduation. At least an academic work is required within last five years that is entitled to disseminate according to the standard criteria for the academic title appointment.

***12.2 Qualifications of Program Responsible Faculty Members***

The qualifications of program responsible faculty members are similar to that of program faculty members. However, the number of program responsible faculty members are required at least 5 persons in 5 fields of nursing including adult nursing or gerontology nursing, pediatric nursing, mental health and psychiatric nursing, community nursing and maternal and newborn nursing or midwifery.

Program responsible faculty members are required to have teaching experiences in both theory and practicum in nursing institution at least 2 years. In case of program responsible faculty members holding Master’s degree in other health related fields excluding from those 5 fields of nursing. They are required to have at least 5 years consecutively of teaching experiences in nursing institution.

Program responsible faculty members are the persons who liable for management and teaching and learning development including planning, quality control, monitoring, evaluation, and curriculum modification or curriculum development. Every program must have responsible faculty members on fulltime duty throughout the program implementation.

***12.3 Qualifications of lecturers***

 Lecturers may include full-time or part-time lecturers who obtain at least a Master’s degree in Nursing Science or other health related field or related to subject to be taught or obtain at least Assistant Professor in Nursing. The special clinical lecturers must possess the qualification set forth by TNMC.

***12.4 Qualifications of special part-time lecturers***

Part-time lecturers have to obtain at least a Bachelor degree or equivalent degree.

They are required to have at least 6 years of related clinical experiences and have been assigned lecture hour not more than 50% of the total hours of the subject which is responsible by full-time faculty members.

For general education courses and other basic professional courses of specialized school that cannot offer the course independently by the school, the lecture hours of part-time lecturers can be flexible to be more than 50% of a course. Their qualifications should meet the notification of the Ministry of Education regarding current Undergraduate Program Standard Criteria

***12.5 The ratio of teacher to student must be complied with the standard criteria of TNMC***

12.5.1 The teacher-student ratio

In case of new institution, the ratio of program faculty members to full time equivalent student is not exceeding 1:6. The ratio is calculated by counting number of students. The ratio of program faculty member to actual number of students is not exceeding 1:8.

12.5.2 The student and teacher ratio for nursing practicum courses in healthcare settings or in

community is not exceeding 1:8. The ratio of student to registered nurse who serves as clinical nurse supervisor is not exceeding 1:4.

***12.6 Teaching and learning support staffs***

The numbers of teaching and learning support staffs or teaching assistances in nursing learning resource center are appropriate for the numbers of students. In addition, the institution should have teaching and learning support staffs for supporting the institution management for both financial and audio-visual aids services.

**13. Teaching and Learning Resources and Management:**

***13.1 Teaching and Learning Resources***

13.1.1 Have buildings and classrooms to facilitate teaching and learning process including adequate small group conference rooms

13.1.2 Have appropriate offices to facilitate faculty members and staffs in working

13.1.3 Have spaces for doing extra curriculum activities of students

13.1.4 Have appropriate general science and health science laboratories with adequate equipment.

13.1.5 Have nursing laboratory for practicing all areas of nursing skills. The equipment is modern, sufficient, and well prepared for using. These include basic nursing models, CPR models, labor and delivery models, and adequate supplementary equipment necessary for practicing other skills as the requirements of each practicum course.

13.1.6 Have sufficient computer laboratory and computers for students to access internet and search online information to support their learning

13.1.7 Have sufficient classrooms and audio-visual aids that suitable for teaching-learning activities as determined by curriculum and course requirements

13.1.8 Have library that provide adequate brand new main textbooks cover all areas of nursing as indicate in the outlines of every course. The numbers of nursing and health science textbooks are sufficient for students and faculty members in searching information and using as academic references. The electronic online databases services are available for students to facilitate and increase their accessibility.

13.1.9 Have update issues of Thai and English nursing journals in all areas of nursing that continually subscribe or electronic nursing journal databases available for increasing students and faculty members’ accessibility.

13.1.10 Have practicum sites covering all levels of healthcare services and available for all areas of nursing practicum that provide learning experiences relevant to the stated learning outcomes of each course.

13.1.11 Have security systems and measures for students and faculty members in order to prevent potential risks for students during nursing practices and during transportation to/from practicum sites.

***13.2 Management***

13.2.1 Have responsible persons especially for educational resources management

13.2.2 Have educational resources requirement planning continuously

13.2.3 Have sufficient, well prepared education resources available for using

13.2.4 Have quality and quantity evaluations for all education resources including practicum sites continuously at least every semester

13.2.5 Have satisfaction evaluation by students and faculty members for educational resources quality improvement at the end of teaching and learning of each semester

**14. The faculty development guidelines:**

***14.1*** *Enhance teaching learning and evaluation skills in order to support the achievements of learning outcomes in all domains.*

***14.2*** *Develop progressive nursing specialty and expertise at all time*

***14.3*** *Develop academic writing skills including textbooks, books, and research publications and dissemination in both national and international academic journals.*

***14.4*** *Increase academic qualifications.*

***14.5*** *Develop qualifications for pursing academic title/ position or equivalent system.*

***14.6*** *Facilitate continuing personal and professional development.*

***14.7*** *Enhance and develop computer, information technology skills.*

The preparations for new instructors are required including orientation about roles and responsibilities of the instructors in order to improve knowledge, teaching-learning, and evaluation skills in accordance with the learning outcomes and teaching strategies as stated in the curriculum. The new nursing instructors must be systematically trained for developing teaching learning skills including expertise in nursing practice skills, development of the instructor role and code of ethics through the mentoring system or the system specified by the institutions.

**15 Quality assurances for program and teaching learning management:**

 The educational institution of Nursing Science Program have to ensure the quality of curriculum and teaching learning management that will educate the qualified graduates to meet the minimum standard criteria of learning outcomes according to the Standard Qualifications Framework for Undergraduate Program in Nursing Science. The components of quality assurance must cover at least six aspects as:

1) Standard control

2) Graduates

3) Students

4) Faculty members

5) Curriculum, teaching-learning and learner evaluation

6) Learning support facilities

***15.1 Core achievement indicators for the program implementation***

 The educational institutions can identify the core achievement indicators for the program implementation that reflects the quality of educational management in accordance with the main purposes of curriculum in the components 1-6 as follow:

1. At least 80% of the program responsible faculty members are involved in meeting for planning, monitoring, and reviewing program implementation.

2. There is the program specification (TQF2) in accordance with the Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education and TQF1 in all criteria.

3. The TQF 3 and TQF 4 of all courses must be prepared in accordance with TQF 2 and completed two weeks before the semester begins in every academic year.

4. TQF 5 and TQF 6 of all courses must be completed within 30 days after the semester ends.

5. TQF 7 must be completed within 60 days after the academic year ends

6. The students’ learning outcomes stated in TQF 3 and TQF 4 are verified at least 25 percent of all courses offered in each academic year.

7. The result of program implementation reporting in the TQF 7 of previous year has been utilized in improving the teaching learning management, teaching strategy, or learning outcomes evaluation.

8. All program faculty members are qualified according to the criteria of the Thai Qualifications Framework for undergraduate program in Nursing Science.

9. All new faculty members (if any) are given orientation, advisement or teaching learning management trainings.

10. All program faculty members obtain academic training or participate in teaching-learning and professional development at least 15 hour per academic year.

11. All support staffs obtain annual work development in accordance with their job responsibility.

12. The average satisfaction scores of senior students/ new graduates toward the quality of program is not less than 3.51 out of 5.00

13. The average satisfaction scores of employers toward new graduates is not less than 3.51 out of 5.00

 The educational institutions can include more indicators based on its specific identity and the indicators specified in each year must be appropriate for the program implementation.

***15.2 Evaluation***

 The educational institutions which are certified according to the Thailand Qualifications Framework for Higher Education must achieve the good level of assessment scores according to the target indicators for two consecutive academic years. These institutions are eligible to request for the program assessment aimed to publicize by the Office of Higher Education Commission. For the evaluation criteria, the assessment results must demonstrate good level, ensure the completed program implementation in item 1-10 and achieve at least 80 percent of the specified indicator of each year.

**16. The application of Standard Qualifications Framework for Undergraduate Program in Nursing Science into practice:**

 The educational institutions which intend to offer nursing program or modify curriculum in nursing science should practice as follow:

***16.1*** *Consider the readiness and potential of the institution in terms of curriculum management according to the criteria stated in the Standard Qualifications Framework for Undergraduate Program in Nursing Science.*

***16.2*** *Appoint the curriculum development committee for Bachelor of Nursing Science program consisting of at least five persons. The committee includes two faculty members responsible for the program, two external experts in nursing science, and the representative of TNMC at least one person in order to develop the program in accordance with current issue of the Thailand Qualifications Framework for undergrad program in nursing science.*

***16.3*** *Perform the curriculum development including at least the topics specified in the TQF 2. Learning outcomes are set in congruence or compatible with the indicators stated in the TQF 1. The educational institutions can specify additional learning outcomes for the program according to its philosophy, objectives of the program, and the graduate identity of the institution.*

***16.4*** *Before program implementation, lecturers or course responsible persons must prepare the course specification (TQF3) and the field experience specification (TQF 4) according to the institutions’ indicators.*

***16.5*** *At the end of teaching learning, evaluation, and learning outcome verification of all courses in each academic year, lecturers or course responsible persons must completed course report and the field experience according to TQF5 and TQF6 forms. At the end of academic year, the program responsible persons must prepare the program report (TQF7) according to the format designed by the institutions*.

**17. Publicity of the qualified curriculum according to the standard of TQF through recording in the Thai Qualifications Register (TQR):**

 The publicity of the qualified curriculum according to the standards of TQF is required to follow the regulation set forth by the Office of Higher Education Commission and its revised version.

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