

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING (DPHN)

Introduction

Training of public health nurses at diploma level though envisaged earlier, did not start until 1976 in Mulago Hospital, and so far more than 152 nurses have been trained and awarded the Ministry of Health Diploma in Public Health Nursing. This is still below the number that was projected to be at least 300 Public Health Nurses by the year 2000. The program is supposed to enhance the current training and thus the output of the Trained Public Health Nurses.

The challenges need a new public health nurse who is a key member of the District Health Team (DHT) and is placed at the district and HSD levels with responsibilities in all areas of Primary Health Care and Occupational Health. In recognition of the challenges and responsibilities required of this new cadre of Public Health Nurse, it was proposed by the Ministry of Health that Makerere University takes over this program and the trainees be awarded a University diploma.

General objective

The aim of the Diploma in Public Health Nursing is to prepare a Public Health Nurse who will meet the health needs of the community at the appropriate operational levels by providing preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

The specific objectives are:

1. To prepare the public health nurse to identify the social and health needs of an individual, family, and the community at large and assist them to meet these needs.
2. To work within an integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral system.
3. To plan, evaluate, develop and manage the activities of the public health nursing system.
4. To provide the public nurse with the capacity and skills to meet demands arising from decentralisation policy of the Uganda Government.

5. To provide the public health nurse with the capacity to carry out operational research on important health problems encountered during practice.

Types of courses

All courses in the programme except one are compulsory and must be passed independently by the student in order to obtain the diploma. The only audited course is PHN 1206 Introduction to Computing offered in the second semester. The project field report shall be submitted at the end of the second semester.

Programme structure :

All courses in this programme are core and an audited course (PHN 1206)* is introduced.

Year I: Semester I		
Course Code	Course	CU
PHN 1101	Public Health Nursing	2
PHN 1102	Health Science Management	3
PHN 1103	Primary Health Care	4
PHN 1104	Epidemiology and Bio-statistics	3
PHN 1105	Research Methods & Proposal Development	5
PHN 1106	Principles of Communicable Disease Control	4
PHN 1107	Management of Selected Common Diseases	4
	Total credit units	21
Semester II		
PHN 1201	Mental Health	5
PHN 1202	Child Health and Family Planning	5
PHN 1203	Occupational Health	5
PHN 1204	Environmental Health	5
PHN 1205	Training of Health Workers	5
PHN 6101	Public Health Nursing	
PHN 6102	Health Science Management	
PHN 6103	Primary Health Care	
PHN 6104	Epidemiology and Biostatistics	
PHN 6105	Research Methods and Proposal Development	