



UNIVERSITY OF L'AQUILA



Department of Health, Life and
Environmental Sciences

PROFILE OF

Second Cycle Degree in
NURSING AND OBSTETRIC SCIENCES

Laurea Magistrale in
SCIENZE INFERMIERISTICHE E OSTETRICHE

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DEGREE PROFILE OF
Laurea Magistrale in SCIENZE INFERMIERISTICHE E OSTETRICHE
Second Cycle Degree in NURSING AND OBSTETRIC SCIENCES

TYPE OF DEGREE & LENGTH	Single Degree (120 ECTS-credits), 2 years
INSTITUTION(S)	Università degli Studi dell'Aquila - <i>University of L'Aquila</i> , ITALY
ACCREDITATION ORGANISATION(S)	Italian Ministry of Education and Research
PERIOD OF REFERENCE	Programme validated for 3 years for cohorts starting in October 2012
CYCLE /LEVEL	QF for EHEA: Second Cycle; EOF level: 7; NOF for Italy: Laurea Magistrale

A	PURPOSE
	<p>Graduates of this 2nd cycle degree in <i>Nursing and Obstetric Sciences</i> are licensed nurses and obstetricians professionals with in-depth healthcare and management skills. This Master degree provides the students with advanced knowledge and skills enabling them 1) to design and implement innovative models for preventing and managing priority health issues in the community, in the elderly and in families, 2) to analyze the evolution and changes in healthcare services in order to draw up plans, programs and projects for the organization and development of the healthcare system/services in the nursing and obstetrics field, and 3) to better understand the psycho-socio-cultural influences on human behavior, as basis for staff management improving in order to plan, manage and assess care services with a view of services quality enhancement.</p> <p>Furthermore the graduates are able to plan/evaluate and manage the health services in view of cost/benefit ratio in order to improve the quality of life of the patient and optimize the human capital.</p> <p>The programme meets the requirements of European and National laws and Directives.</p>

B	CHARACTERISTICS		
1	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">DISCIPLINE(S) / SUBJECT AREA(S)</td> <td>Strong theoretical basis on Nursing, Midwifery, Biology and Medicine, Nursing and Obstetric Practice (20:20:20:40)</td> </tr> </table>	DISCIPLINE(S) / SUBJECT AREA(S)	Strong theoretical basis on Nursing, Midwifery, Biology and Medicine, Nursing and Obstetric Practice (20:20:20:40)
DISCIPLINE(S) / SUBJECT AREA(S)	Strong theoretical basis on Nursing, Midwifery, Biology and Medicine, Nursing and Obstetric Practice (20:20:20:40)		
2	GENERAL / SPECIALIST FOCUS Specialist on Nursing and Obstetric with focus on Management issues		
3	ORIENTATION It is an academic degree with a professional orientation applied to the theory and practice of nursing and obstetric professional profile, according to International and National Directives on Allied Health Professions.		
4	DISTINCTIVE FEATURES This degree has a strong component of interdisciplinary learning with other health care professionals and is performed in a stimulating research environment. Students have a 3/6-months placement in health departments in Italy and/or abroad for on-field working experiences and research activities.		

C	EMPLOYABILITY & FURTHER EDUCATION		
1	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">EMPLOYABILITY</td> <td> <p>Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to work as managers of health care services who have fulfilled the requirements of European Directive ("Professional Qualifications Directive" 2005/36/EC) on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. They carry out their professional activities in health care facilities, public or private, either as employees or freelance workers, as supervisors/organizers of efficacious services and structures.</p> <p>Furthermore they can carry out research and teaching activities at university.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	EMPLOYABILITY	<p>Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to work as managers of health care services who have fulfilled the requirements of European Directive ("Professional Qualifications Directive" 2005/36/EC) on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. They carry out their professional activities in health care facilities, public or private, either as employees or freelance workers, as supervisors/organizers of efficacious services and structures.</p> <p>Furthermore they can carry out research and teaching activities at university.</p>
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2	FURTHER STUDIES The Master Degree in <i>Nursing and Obstetric Sciences</i> normally gives direct access to a wide range of PhD degree programs in the fields encompassed on Allied Healthcare Professionals. It also gives access to some specializing professional courses.		

D	EDUCATION STYLE
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1	LEARNING & TEACHING APPROACHES	Lectures, group-work, individual study and autonomous learning, multidisciplinary learning, self directed study, work placement.
2	ASSESSMENT METHODS	Assessment is normally performed by means of an oral or written examination. The final exam consists in the discussion of a written text aimed at demonstrate that the candidate has acquired the essential professional skills and competences related to the professional profile.

E	PROGRAMME COMPETENCES	
1	GENERIC	
	<p>The degree program meets the competences and quality assurance procedures required by <i>Italian Association of Nurses and Obstetricians</i> and by the National Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (AVA) requirements for degree courses at second level. This includes the generic competences expected for the second cycle graduated, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Analysis and synthesis: Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of the profession and ability to be critical and self-critical and to make autonomous judgments. — Flexible mind: Ability to make autonomous reasoned decisions and to interact with others in a constructive manner, even when dealing with difficult issues. — Leadership, Management and Team-working: Ability to work in a team and to interact constructively with others regardless of background and culture and respecting diversity. — Communication skills: Ability to communicate both orally and through the written word in first language and in another European language. — Field culture: Ability to apply knowledge in practical situations and to act on the basis of ethical reasoning. — Learning ability: Capacity to learn and stay up-to-date with learning. — Problem solving: Ability to identify, pose and resolve problems in new or unfamiliar environments within broader and multidisciplinary contexts in providing, organizing and optimizing health diagnostic services. — Other skills: Ability to plan and manage time and to evaluate and maintain the quality of work produced. 	
2	SUBJECT SPECIFIC	
	<p>The Program meets all the specific competences as established and agreed in collaboration with the field stakeholders, clustered within the key overarching competences summarized below:</p> <p>Deep knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theoretical models, operational methods and research of nursing and obstetric sciences acquired during the first cycle degree program in nursing sciences; - complex phenomena and problems in the healthcare field of interest to the nursing and obstetric profession, within a broader demographic, epidemiological, socio-cultural and political-institutional scenario; - care, organizational and educational processes of nursing and obstetric care linked to the evolution of healthcare problems among the population, the operation of the healthcare systems and social services and specific vocational and career paths; - the historical and philosophical evolution of the respective subject fields in order to critically analyze them; - working processes of healthcare organizations, staff management strategies, professional evaluation and accreditation systems, in order to promote the integration of nursing and obstetric teams with other professional services in order to deliver safe, effective and relevant services which are culture-sensitive, appropriately documented and managed by competent staff. <p>Comprehension/understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to analyze key policies for the provision of healthcare, understand and use laws and regulations to assure quality patient care; - ability to appropriately use nursing and obstetric theories and those from similar fields to provide leadership and/or effective and innovative training; - ability to act as a professional model and provide advice to students, colleagues and users; - ability to develop evidence-based practice using research to introduce change and improve practices. <p>Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to assess the trends and socio-economic questions relating to local, national and international healthcare; - Ability to analyze the main ethical questions and methods in which these may affect healthcare, ethically assess decisions from both a personal and organizational viewpoint and understand how these two dimensions may lead to conflicts of interest; - develop job profiles, learning outcomes, select appropriate learning activities, design basic curricula, and implement them according to educational principles and theories, review curricula according to current trends in society and healthcare. <p>The teaching tools aimed at achieving these skills include the production of assignments by students which involve the construction of a healthcare project to demonstrate their ability to analyze, manage and interpret data autonomously using material available in literature or producing original and innovative data with a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective (also in preparation for the final examination).</p>	

	<p>Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to draw up complex analyses and develop autonomous thought and scientific, legal, ethical evaluations to support the decisions needed to manage complex problems in the field of healthcare, organization, training and research in nursing and obstetrics, also through multidisciplinary debate; - ability to integrate high ethical standards and values into everyday activities and projects. <p>Synthesis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to take decisions considering the management elements and costs of the adopted choices; - Capacity to provide reasons for, analyze, interpret and document the chosen actions and solutions on the basis of reasoning, decision-making, documentation and evaluation processes; - Ability to plan and organize the activities in the structure where they work by optimizing the human capital and the structures in view of cost/benefit ratio; - ability to create a professional environment which promotes excellence in nursing and obstetrics; - ability to process the principles and techniques of care relationships at an advanced level in order to provide advice to colleagues on complex relational situations; - ability to act as a mentor to train and develop skills in future leaders in organizational clinical fields; - ability to adopt supportive managerial styles to assist collaborators in managing projects, teaching and supervision, negotiation, conflict resolution and counseling; - ability to implement different teaching strategies motivated by educational theories and evidence-based practices; - ability to create clinical and learning environments focusing on patients and families and respecting cultural differences and different relational and learning styles. <p>Creativity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to plan and adapt instruction, guidance and advice as regards problems with time and equipment management; - ability to plan and enhance the actions aiming to increase human, technological, information and financial resources of the health structures where they work. <p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to forecast and assess the effects of their own decisions and activities and undertake the consequent social responsibility; - Ability to perform continuous quality assessment and evaluation of outcomes and results; -Ability to identify and evaluate the learning needs of staff employed in the structure and design a suitable training programme. <p>Problem managing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to interact appropriately with other professionals in the design and implementation of multi-professional projects; - ability to manage and resolve conflicts. <hr/> <p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to lead interpersonal discussions with users and operators, demonstrating appropriate listening skills, adapted to the context, nature of the problems and objectives; - ability to put forward their own theories orally and in writing in a reasoned manner using language which is appropriate to the various interlocutors and contexts; - ability to negotiate and communicate effectively using methodological strictness and convincing arguments; - ability to manage educational relations with the population, staff and students; - ability to communicate both verbally and in writing with patients, relatives, colleagues and other professional groups in multidisciplinary and multiprofessional collaboration.
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F	COMPLETE LIST OF PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>A newly graduated Master of <i>Nurse and Obstetric Sciences</i> should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrate systems and organizational leadership and systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes; - implement advanced nursing practice interventions; - demonstrate effective use of research and technology; - demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialty and capacities to integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of healthcare delivery; - apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery. -understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes; -synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings; -use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations, and systems; -integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency; -provide primary health care including health promotion and disease prevention in order to improve health outcomes for patients and families in all economic levels;

- develop collaborative relationships with other health care providers to improve quality of care and access to health care for diverse and underserved populations;
- function as expert clinicians in managing both acute and chronic physical and/or mental illness in a variety of settings;
- utilize research findings, evidenced-based practice strategies, technology, and creativity to improve the delivery and outcomes of health care;
- use ethical principles, standards of safe advanced nursing practice and caring relationships to promote health and/or dignified death;
- stimulate change within the profession and improve management of the health care delivery system by addressing legal and economic policies; psychosocial, cultural, and environmental factors that affect health care;
- demonstrate role development and commitment in the selected advanced practice role;
- synthesize and apply to practice a wide range of theories from nursing and other related disciplines;
- identify psycho-socio-cultural influences on human behavior, as a basis for improving staff management;
- design and implement innovative models to prevent and manage priority health issues in the community, in the elderly and in families;
- analyze the evolution and changes in healthcare services to draw up plans, programs and projects for the organization and development of the healthcare system/services in the nursing and obstetrics field;
- manage nursing and obstetrics services in healthcare organizations and social services;
- design and operatively implement solutions to organizational problems and organizational models for nursing and obstetrics services;
- plan, manage and assess care services with a view to quality improvement (planning, organization, management and control);
- design complex healthcare interventions in areas of high epidemiological value or of high impact on the population;
- assess their own performance according to professional practices, standards and organizational criteria, continuously identifying their own education needs according to the nature and complexity of the problems faced and the planning and operational strategies managed, in order to plan their own professional improvement;
- autonomously adopt effective strategies for lifelong learning in both formal and non-formal environments, also through further study programs;
- use computer systems, software and complete databases to gather, organize and catalogue information; identify a problem, review the available literature, critically analyze the problem and current knowledge, develop a strategy to apply research to practice, facilitate the dissemination of research results;
- assess the methods and tools used for applied nursing and obstetric research and transfer the results of care research;
- apply scientific evidence to decision-making processes and the organization of nursing and obstetric care;
- critically assess the knowledge acquired in biomedical and human sciences in order to apply it to the organization and nursing and obstetric care and professional training;
- integrate scientific knowledge and advanced nursing and obstetric methods, education and management skills
- design and deliver specific teaching activities to various levels of nursing and obstetric staff and design health education programs for groups and individuals;
- promote the development of the profession through the knowledge of nursing and obstetric theories and models and professional organization;
- assess staff skills to increase their potential also using strategies to promote multi-professional and organizational integration processes;
- manage complex situations which require updated theoretical references to law, legal medicine, economic sciences and healthcare legislation;
- analyze the ethical aspects of care and multi-professional and multicultural problems;
- adopt professional and organizational behavior which is consistent with the ethical and legal dimensions and the code of conduct of healthcare.

**Comprehensive Scheme of the Second Cycle Degree in
NURSING AND OBSTETRIC SCIENCES**

YEAR	CODE	COURSE	Credits (ECTS)	Semester
I	D3936	HUMAN, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PEDAGOGICAL, AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL NURSING DIMENSIONS: 1. Development of nursing sciences 2. General psychology 3. General and social pedagogy 4. History of health care	10 (3) (3) (3) (1)	1
	D3939	SCIENCE OF PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION METHODS IN THE COMMUNITY: 1. Nursing and midwifery in families and communities 2. Prevention of cardiovascular diseases 3. General pathology	9 (3) (3) (3)	1
	D3945	NURSING MANAGEMENT: 1. Nursing and obstetric management in hospital 2. Nursing and obstetric management in community health care facilities 3. Sociology of cultural and communication processes	9 (3) (3) (3)	2
	D4813	HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS: 1. Rights in the work place 2. Health care management 3. Private law in health care	9 (3) (3) (3)	2
	D3638	WORK PLACEMENT 1	23	1/2
II	D4086	HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, AND CRITICAL CARE: 1. Organizational models in maternal & child health departments 2. Nursing management in critical care and emergency departments	6 (3) (3)	1
	D3956	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN NURSING AND OBSTETRIC SCIENCES: 1. Medical statistics 2. Epidemiology 3. Research methodology in nursing and obstetric sciences	10 (3) (3) (4)	1
	D3960	FORENSIC NURSING AND RISK MANAGEMENT: 1. Forensic nursing and risk management 2. Forensic medicine 3. Information processing systems	10 (4) (3) (3)	2
	D3963	CARE INNOVATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS IN NURSING SCIENCES: 1. Methodology of nursing process and classification systems of nursing care 2. Professional and training standards in nursing sciences	7 (4) (3)	2
	D3640	WORK PLACEMENT 2	7	1/2
		<i>Optional courses/activities</i>	14	1/2
		Thesis	6	2