

FULL D'EXPERIÈNCIES d'INNOVACIÓ DOCENT en EDUCACIÓ SUPERIOR

october
06

GIMBERNAT SCHOOL OF NURSING

INTRODUCTION

This is an example of how a degree is adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). This example is unique in the way that students are provided with support and information about European adaptation, course-transformation strategies are implemented and new learning methods are introduced.

Sharing is essential in the EHEA adaptation process. Cross-curricular strategies have proven useful for adapting courses to the needs of today's society. These educational innovations also make it possible to share and integrate specific knowledge, assess skills in a way that takes real participation into account, and develop skills in a global, integrated manner.

These changes can be successful if we also develop a student-centred culture of learning. This journey is an opportunity for improvement and reflection that can help us increase the quality of both the education we provide and the professionals we train.

ELENA AÑÑOS
Innovation Area
IDES

UAB

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

ADAPTING THE NURSING DEGREE TO THE EHEA



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT

The changes to this degree are taking place under European decrees, thanks to the Gimbernat School's inclusion in the UAB Pilot Plan. We firmly believe that European convergence provides an excellent opportunity to analyse and design our courses as part of a dynamic process that favours comprehensive training and defines learning as the acquisition and transfer of cognitive skills, personal skills, attitudes and professional values.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PLAN

During the 2005/06 academic year, the new design was implemented for first-year students. Many other educational innovations have been gradually introduced for all three years of the course.

These innovations mainly use two kinds of strategies:

- Strategies to provide students with support and information about European adaptation
- Strategies to transform the structure of the subjects and introduce new learning methods

A) STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH SUPPORT AND INFORMATION ABOUT EUROPEAN ADAPTATION

One innovation aimed at informing students about the process of adapting the course to the EHEA is the series of Educational Orientation Seminars. These seminars were introduced during the 2004/05 academic year to help first-year students understand the European Higher Education Area, the methodological tools that will help them improve and develop their understanding, and the new teaching methods to be introduced at the School.

B) STRATEGIES TO TRANSFORM THE STRUCTURE OF THE SUBJECTS AND INTRODUCE NEW LEARNING METHODS

This category includes two kinds of strategies: subject-specific (related to the development of particular subjects over all three years of the course) and cross-curricular (linking the various subjects taught during a given academic year).

In the following paragraphs, we will discuss the cross-curricular strategies, which have undergone most transformation and adaptation. These strategies are closely linked to the European guidelines on developing teaching methods that reflect the professional reality of the field and promote global, non-fragmented learning.

CROSS-CURRICULAR STRATEGIES

The two projects presented below are being implemented in the opposite direction to the Pilot Plan – that is, starting with the third year of the course and ending with the first year. These projects were the result of a re-examination of the syllabus that took place prior to the Pilot Plan for European adaptation. Some lecturers at the School had been implementing the projects in a natural – and almost experimental – manner since 2002. When the

Unitat d'Innovació Docent en Educació Superior (IDES)

Edifici A

Campus de la UAB

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)

Tel.: 93 581 41 66

Fax: 93 581 41 67

ides@uab.es

www.uab.es/ides

Equip de la Unitat

Dra. Maite Martínez
Directora

Dra. Elena Añaños
Àmbit d'Innovació

Sarai Sabaté
Núria Marzo
Pere Tomasa
Equip col·laborador

Jordi Grau
Virtudes Guzmán
Suport administratiu

Edició i impressió

Servei de Publicacions
de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

EHEA adaptation process began, the projects were found to be consistent with the needs of today's society.

CROSS-CURRICULAR MODULE: GERIATRIC AND COMMUNITY NURSING

This innovative project has been underway since the 2002/03 academic year. The curricula of two core subjects of the third year, Community Nursing and Geriatric Nursing, have been integrated. Although these two subjects were conceived as separate modules, much of the material they cover is the same. The cross-curricular module unifies the teaching and assessment of the skills corresponding to these areas. As a result, the situations covered in this module, which are presented using the problem-based learning method, are more similar to real-life healthcare situations.

This module has been very successful. As a result, a second cross-curricular module was developed in keeping with the same criteria and goals. This module was recently implemented in the second year of the course.

CROSS-CURRICULAR MODULE II: INTERVENTION STRATEGIES, HEALTH EDUCATION AND THERAPEUTIC NURSING COMMUNICATION IN A COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The second cross-curricular module was introduced during the 2006/07 academic year. It is designed to form a continuum with the third-year cross-curricular module. It integrates specific knowledge required for the practice of primary-care nursing in a community context. Students are taught to identify and apply effective intervention strategies in this area and develop communication skills that promote a healthy lifestyle. Three subjects have been incorporated into this new module: Community Nursing II, Health Education and Nursing Care Role.

The following are a selection of other cross-curricular projects aimed at integrating the material covered in most subjects during a particular year and giving comprehensive meaning to the skills of the nursing profession:

CONFERENCE: REFLECTIONS ON AIDS

This cross-curricular activity, held on World AIDS Day, corresponds to the subjects Surgical Nursing: Adults I, Anthropology of Health, Legislation and Professional Ethics, Mental Health Nursing, Nursery Nursing and Community Nursing. It provides an overview of AIDS from various perspectives and promotes collective and individual



reflection on the disease. It also encourages students to reflect on their personal position with respect to AIDS. This activity is structured as a scientific conference. A renowned AIDS expert opens the session with a lecture. The students then give oral presentations. Finally, the conference closes with a debate in which students are encouraged to share ideas and viewpoints.

CROSS-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME TO DEVELOP COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND EMOTIONAL AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

This programme was introduced this year for first-year students. It provides a global, integrated approach to developing communication skills in all subjects of the course. Learning situations of increasing complexity are presented over all three years. Communication and interpersonal skills are essential tools in all areas of the nursing profession. These skills are not innate qualities. Training programmes are required to increase students' professionalism and expertise in this area.

All of these changes modify the role of the students, who become the focal point of the learning process. The process of adapting a course to the EHEA, however, also requires modifying the educational culture, adopting a new perspective, understanding the teaching process, and getting the teaching staff motivated and involved in the necessary modifications. We are aware that many lecturers criticise and even reject the Bologna Process. However, we see this as an opportunity for improvement and reflection that has allowed us to improve our nursing course.

AMOR ARADILLA HERRERO
Member of the Course Committee for Adaptation
of the School of Nursing
Gimbernat and Tomàs Cerdà Schools
(UAB-affiliated centres)
Av. de la Generalitat, s/n
08174 Sant Cugat del Vallès
(Barcelona) - SPAIN
Tel: +34 93 589 37 27
amor.aradilla@cesc.es

