

AFRICA SCHOOL OF MISSIONS THE ENROLLED NURSING AUXILIARY COURSE

Africa School of Missions (ASM) is an interdenominational, Christian Missions and Ministry training center that was established near White River in Mpumalanga Province in 1884. The Nursing School at ASM was approved by the South African Nursing Council in 1991. More recently it has also been accredited with the Department of Education (registration no. 2009/FE08/006). Currently the Nursing School offers the one-year Enrolled Auxiliary Nurse's Program. Professional (registered) nurses normally follow a four-year training program before qualifying. The auxiliary nurse's training is the first year in this process and is a more accessible way for mature or rural people to enter the nursing profession. As opposed to young school leavers who are able to go directly from secondary school to college or university. It is also a valuable opportunity for people preparing for the mission field to do both nursing and missions training at the same time. Graduate auxiliary nurses can further their training at other nursing schools that offer higher courses in nursing.

General Course Information

In keeping with the vision, ethos and values of ASM all applicants who wish to do the auxiliary nursing course first need to do a one-year missions and ministry program at ASM, either the Missions Service Year or the Christian Life Skills course. The Christian Life Skills Course offers candidates a unique opportunity to become computer literate; to improve English and general academic skills; and it also gives a good grounding in the Bible with appropriate opportunities for personal growth and development. ASM believes that this prepares the nursing candidates to be more caring and effective nursing students. The Missions Service Year also gives a good grounding in the Bible but covers a wide range of very valuable mission subjects that prepares the candidates for work on the mission field.

In the nursing course candidates learn all the basic nursing skills, basic nutrition, anatomy and first aid. They also learn some general issues relating to promoting good health and preventing illness in a community, and special issues relating to the care and well being of young children aged 0 to 5 years old. The course covers the basic curricula of the enrolled auxiliary nurse and meets all the course requirements laid down by the South African Nursing Council. The course intake for both the Life Skills and Nursing Course is in January each year and then runs through to the end of November. The nursing students do a Nursing Council examination on the last Friday in November. The nursing program is a very full and busy program so the nursing students are not able to take all of the holidays that the rest of the ASM participants get. The SA Nursing Council requires the course to run over a period of at least 44 academic weeks. Students who do not manage to complete all the course requirements by November are able to do their examination the following March.

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must be between 18 – 40 years old and have a grade twelve school certificate (Senior Certificate), and must be able to present the original school leaving certificate to the ASM Nursing School.
- Applicants need to have successfully completed (with at least 50% average) the ASM Life Skills Course, Missions Service Year, or equivalent full-time Bible School Training elsewhere.

Foreign students need to have the following:

- Twelve years of primary and secondary schooling. The school-leaving certificate issued by the Ministry of Education of their country, needs to be evaluated by the South Africa Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and a copy of the SAQA document needs to be submitted to the ASM Nursing School.
- Foreign students also require a valid study permit.

Course Contents

Module One: Nursing history and ethics

Module Two: Basic nursing care

Module Three: Elementary anatomy and physiology

Module Four: Elementary nutrition

Module Five: First aid

Module Six: Introduction to comprehensive/community health care

Clinical training

The SA Nursing Council states that during the training period each student needs to do a minimum of 1000 hours of relevant clinical work, in clinics or hospitals that have been inspected and approved by them. Clinical work is done in Rob Ferreira Hospital, local government clinics and our own mobile clinic. All clinical work is done without remuneration (i.e. without being paid).

Examinations

The student's clinical skills and theoretical knowledge will be evaluated continuously throughout the training program by tests, assignments, and competency tests. Students are required to achieve an average of at least 50% in all these assessments to be entered for the SA Nursing Council examination. The final examination is in November each year and consists of a practical/clinical section that is arranged by the ASM Nursing School, and a theory paper that is set by the SA Nursing Council. Students who successfully complete the course are enrolled with the SA Nursing Council as Nursing Auxiliaries.

Course Costs

Currently the tuition fees for the Missions Service Year, Life Skills and Nursing Course are R 14,500 for each year, with an additional amount for accommodation for those who choose to live on campus. Over and above this nursing students need to budget for uniforms and for travelling costs to the hospital and clinics or other places where they need to do clinical work (about R3600).

Uniforms

Students are required to wear uniforms whenever they do clinical work. This can be a navy blue skirt or neat long pants (no jeans) with a light blue ASM shirt (purchased locally after starting the course). Shoes and socks/stockings are worn with the above mentioned. In cold weather students need to wear navy blues jackets or jerseys with the uniform to and from work. In the wards a short sleeve navy vest may be worn in cold weather.

For further information

Please contact the ASM Registrar:

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