**NU7008: Advancing the Professional Role**

**Module Leader**  Catherine McCabe, PhD, MSc, BNS, RGN

**Additional Lecturers**

**ECTS**  10

**Rationale and Aims**

Recent years have seen many advances in the professionalisation of nursing in Ireland, including the entry into third level education and expansion of clinical responsibilities and career pathways. Nursing graduates require a critical understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the professional role and how political, organisational and professional factors have influenced professionalism in nursing and nursing practice. Key interpersonal skills are required to contribute effectively to the development and implementation of government health and health care policy at unit, organisational and national level. The aim of this module is to facilitate students to debate their professional roles, the factors that influence the advancement and conduct of such roles and how developments in professionalism in nursing impacts on practice. The strategies for collaborative inter-professional interaction and resolution of inter and intra role conflict will also be explored.

**Module Content**

- Professional relations within the health care setting.
- Process of professionalisation, identity and clarification of roles within nursing.
- Professional boundaries and changing relationships.
- Advanced nursing practice and specialist roles
- Role dimensions with a focus on consultancy, education and management.
- Current influences on the professional role in nursing, for example, government health and health care policy (eg Governance and Quality in Health Care), organisational structures, industrial relations and social change
- Scope and levels of professional practice.
- Interactive Strategies for resolving inter and intra role conflict.
- Conflict resolution, Assertiveness, Negotiation skills.
- Stress management.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Critically discuss the professionalisation of nurses and nursing from a political, organisational, historical and sociological perspective and the impact this has on the development of advanced roles.
- Critically examine the factors that influence professional role development.
- Critically discuss how role development impacts on the scope and levels of practice.
- Discuss and enhance/develop the skills necessary to deal with inter and intra role conflict.

**Methods of Teaching and Student Learning**: Lecture, group work and tutorials, discussion.
Methods of Assessment

Weighting

Written Assignment (3,000 words) 100%

Contact Hours

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<tbody>
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<td>Assessment Student Effort</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specified Activities</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Directed Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Contact: Supervision</td>
<td>200</td>
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Indicative Resources – more detailed lists may be provided by module lecturer


