

REPORT FOR ACADEMIC PROGRESS: THIRD YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER (THEORY AND CLINICAL ATTACHMENT)

Greetings,

I hereby write to give you update on academic progress I have addressed for year three, first semester of my study. This update will include theory (class learning) and practical experience (clinical area).

Third year, first semester

This 29-week semester, 9 weeks of class learning and 20 weeks of clinical allocation, commenced in April, 2022. The following courses were covered in the semester:

- Psychiatric nursing
- Pediatric Nursing
- Surgical Nursing 3(which includes intensive care nursing as well as theatre nursing).

Class learning

Class learning during the semester was such a success. In the 9 weeks of lectures and other modes of class learning, I have gained more advanced knowledge and skills on how to render the care to the patients with different medical and psychiatric conditions. Besides I have been updated with new knowledge in my nursing career.

Clinical allocation

In the first semester of third year, the last 20 weeks were covered as follows:

- 6 weeks of psychiatric nursing practical attachment at Zomba Mental Hospital.
- 14 weeks of Pediatric nursing, intensive care and theatre nursing practical attachments at Queens Elizabeth Hospital

My 6 weeks experience at Zomba mental hospital was good because I acquired skills and competencies on how to render the care on the patients with psychiatric disorder. The hospital had all resources (human and material resources) that helped us to achieve the given objectives, however the institution had no Electro-convulsive therapy machine (ECT) which is one of the treatment modality for the patient with a specific psychiatric disorder.

After finalizing psychiatric nursing experience at Zomba mental hospital, we shifted to Queens Elizabeth central hospital for Pediatric, intensive care and theatre Nursing and we were allocated in 3 departments as follows: intensive care unit(ICU), Theatre Pediatric wards(special care unit, Children emergency and accident unit and Nutritional rehabilitation unit(NRU) which is also known as Moyo rehabilitation unit.

Queens Elizabeth Central hospital is the one of central hospital in Malawi that offers advanced care. It is located in southern part of Malawi and it is a referral hospital. The hospital has advanced equipment's and skilled health personnel that were helped us to achieve the objectives. However the hospital had few number of nursing staff to meet the patients demand.

Challenges encountered during clinical allocation

Some of the challenges include the following

- Some of other objectives for the practical attachment were not met e.g. how to use ECT Machine
- Lack of other resources e.g. inadequate number of health personal
- High cost of living e.g. rentals and other daily basics and stationary.

Note that the tuition fee has increased to MK700,000 per semester effective from third year, semester two. This change in tuition fee has been made due to Malawi's current unstable economy. Further verification can be made through the Registrar, The Catholic University of Malawi.

Lastly I would like to thank ISTEPup Foundation for their usual support towards my studies at Catholic University of Malawi. I have attached academic progress reports for third year, first semester.

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Malawi