

**For information on
28 April 2008**

**Legislative Council Panel on Education
Nursing Training Programmes in Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the role of the Nursing Council of Hong Kong (Nursing Council) in assessing nursing training programmes; the principles of the Hospital Authority (HA) in providing placements; and the latest development pertaining to the case where Hong Kong Institute of Technology's (HKIT) associate degree in nursing programme was not accredited.

ROLE OF THE NURSING COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

2. The Nursing Council is established under the Nurses Registration Ordinance (Cap. 164) as an independent statutory regulatory body. It enjoys statutory power to determine the qualifications for registration and enrolment of nurses, handle applications for registration and enrolment, and to regulate the professional conduct of nurses.

3. There are 15 members in the Nursing Council. The Principal Nursing Officer of the Department of Health is an ex-officio member, and the other 14 members are appointed by the Chief Executive, including 2 members who are selected from a pool of persons consisting of one person nominated by each of the tertiary institutions which have a nursing programme, 1 member who is nominated by the Director of Health and 1 member who is nominated by the HA. The chairman is elected by the members from amongst themselves.

4. The work of accrediting nursing training programmes falls within the professional autonomy of the Nursing Council. At present, the Nursing Council requires all students receiving nursing training in Hong Kong to complete a recognized course in a prescribed training

school for nurses, in order that they can be qualified to be registered or enrolled as nurses in Hong Kong.

5. In the course of assessing an accreditation application, the Nursing Council will take into account such factors as programme design, quality of teaching staff, entry requirements for students, the provision of placements to students, etc.

PLACEMENTS PROVIDED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

6. The HA itself organizes training programmes for registered and enrolled nurses. In addition, the HA has always been supportive of post-secondary nursing training. Therefore, as the statutory body responsible for managing all public hospitals in Hong Kong, the HA also provides placements to students of other nursing training institutions.

7. When nursing training institutions request placements from the HA, the HA will consider a series of factors before deciding whether it should provide placements. Relevant factors include-

- (i) whether the course is organized by a recognized post-secondary institution or university;
- (ii) whether the course has been accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications;
- (iii) whether the course is designed in accordance with the requirements of the Nursing Council; and
- (iv) whether the accreditation application for the course is being handled by the Nursing Council.

8. The HA provides placements with a view to supporting and assisting the manpower training and development of the nursing profession.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CASE WHERE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S NURSING PROGRAMME WAS NOT ACCREDITED

9. In relation to the incident where HKIT's associate degree in nursing programme was not accredited, we understand the students' concerns about their prospects. We have therefore commissioned the HA to launch a one-off arrangement to assist the students to be articulated into the HA's nursing training programmes, so that they can obtain qualifications for registering or enrolling as nurses in due course. Under the premise that the HA will not compromise the quality of its own programmes, the HA will individually assess those HKIT students who aspire to be articulated into the HA's nursing training programmes, and require them to make up for the differences in the content of the programmes.

10. The HA's proposal has already been accepted by the Nursing Council. The HA has started liaising with HKIT students to gauge their inclinations, and will soon carry out assessments for them. Members may refer to the press release at [Annex](#) for details of the HA's proposal.

11. Besides, we have made the following suggestions to the Nursing Council that-

- (i) it should uphold the principles of fairness and justice that it has all along adopted in assessing courses in future, and to continue to maintain close communications with the institutions to ensure that they understand clearly the requirements of the Nursing Council;
- (ii) upon receiving applications for nursing training programme accreditation, the Nursing Council may consider reminding relevant institutions to satisfy the specified basic requirements before commencing the programmes and admitting students; and
- (iii) the Nursing Council may remind institutions to explain clearly to students the progress of the accreditation.

12. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Food and Health Bureau
April 2008**

Hospital Authority offers bridging programme to HKIT nursing students

The Hospital Authority today (April 22) announced a tailor-made bridging programme for existing students of the Associate Degree in Nursing of the Hong Kong Institute of Technology (HKIT) which has already been endorsed by the Nursing Council of Hong Kong. The programme will facilitate the students to pursue an alternative training in obtaining the professional qualification in nursing.

Speaking to the media after a briefing session for the nursing students this morning, Hospital Authority Director (Cluster Services), Dr Cheung Wai-lun, said, "The authority understands and shares the worries of the students and is also very concerned about the social implications of the incident. On request of the Secretary for Food and Health, we have considered and designed the bridging programme specifically for the students. The authority has been exploring possible options to assist the students so that they can apply what they have learned and attain the required nursing qualification to serve the community."

Dr Cheung stressed that there were certain principles in designing the bridging programme. The prime consideration is that the education standard and quality of current Hospital Authority training programmes should not be compromised. The authority will consider the students' eligibility for the programme on an individual basis according to their academic qualification and results. The bridging programme is organised and implemented to make up the apparent discrepancies of the HKIT programme to that of the Hospital Authority nursing training programmes so that students will be eligible for professional nursing qualification.

"Existing nursing students of HKIT who are interested can apply to the bridging programme if they meet the academic qualifications required for the

Higher Diploma or Enrolled Nurse programme of authority nursing schools. Students who do not meet the entry requirement of Hospital Authority basic nursing programmes need to make up the entry requirement deficiency in 12 months' time."

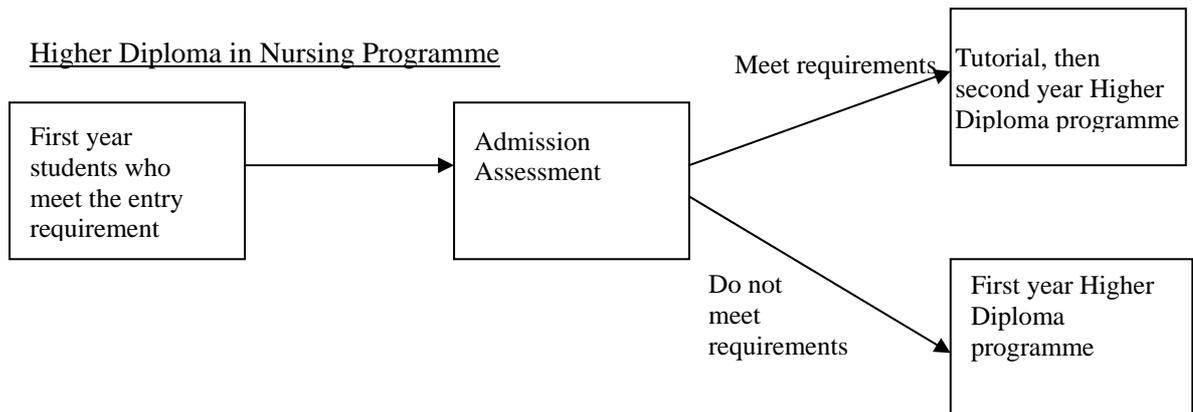
The authority met the Nursing Council of Hong Kong earlier and discussed the possible assistance for the students as well as the details and assessment criteria of the bridging programme. The authority will arrange the first, second and third-year students who would meet the entry requirement and pass the admission assessment to convert to the corresponding year of the Higher Diploma or Enrolled Nurse Bridging Programme (Please refer to appendix).

A briefing session was arranged by the authority this morning for the students of HKIT Associate Degree in Nursing to explain the programme details and entry requirements. The bridging programme is open to application from mid to the end of May. The classes of the bridging programme are scheduled to begin in October.

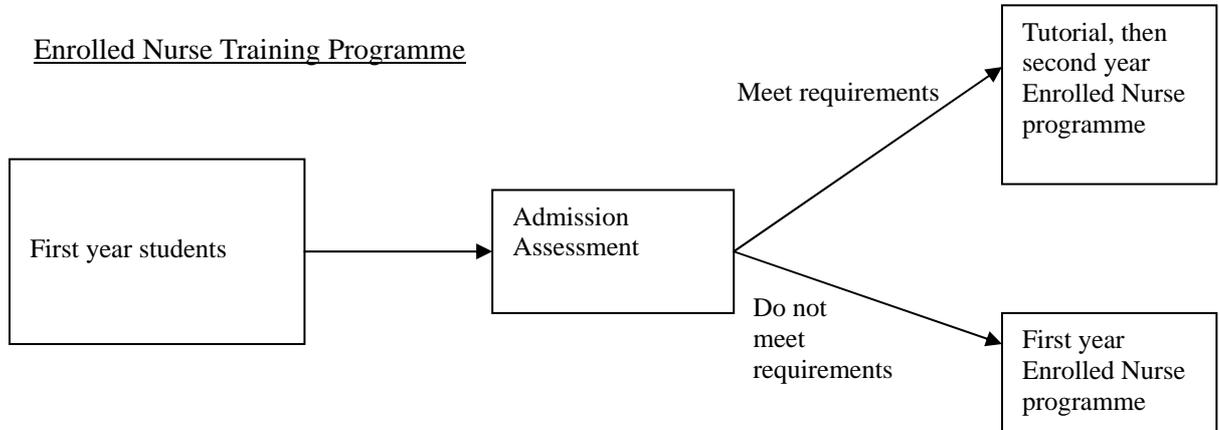
Ends/Tuesday, April 22, 2008

**Hospital Authority Bridging Programmes for
Students of Hong Kong Institute of Technology
Associate Degree in Nursing**

First Year Options

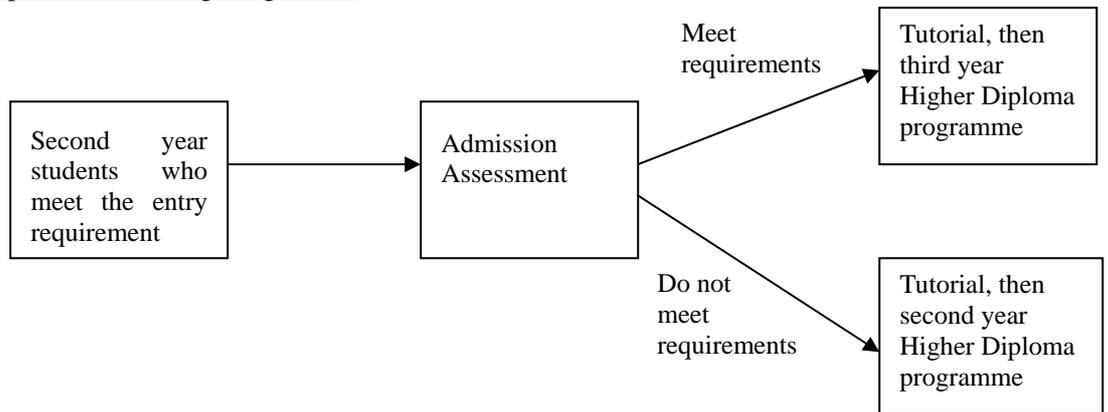


Remarks: Students who do not meet the entry requirements must make-up the deficiency in 12 months' time



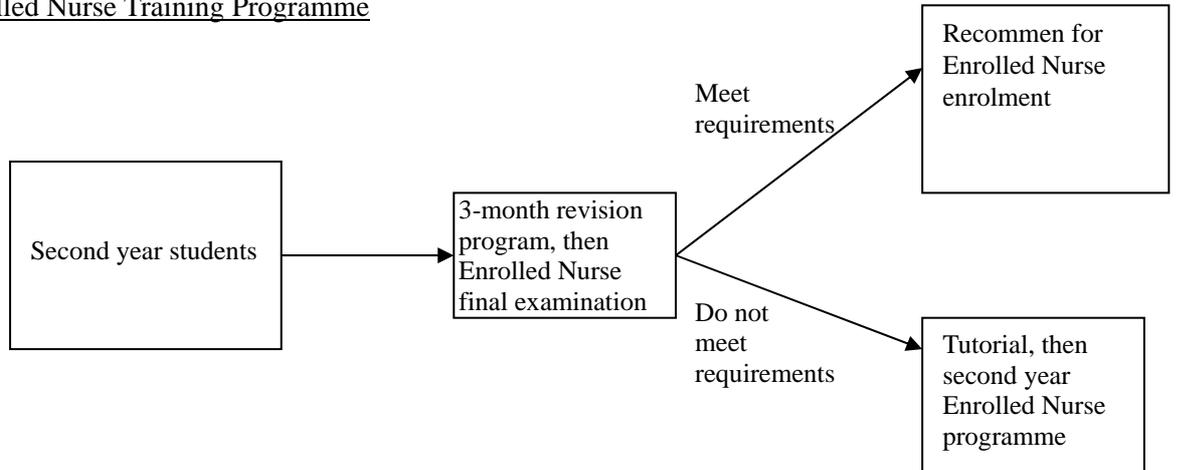
Second Year Options

Higher Diploma in Nursing Programme



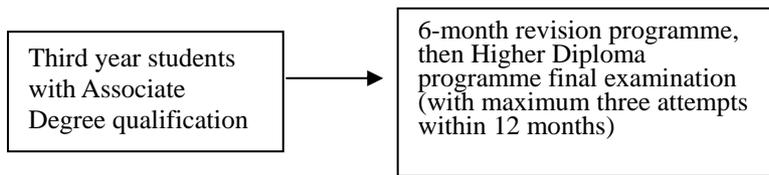
Remarks: Students who do not meet the entry requirements must make-up the deficiency in 12 months' time

Enrolled Nurse Training Programme



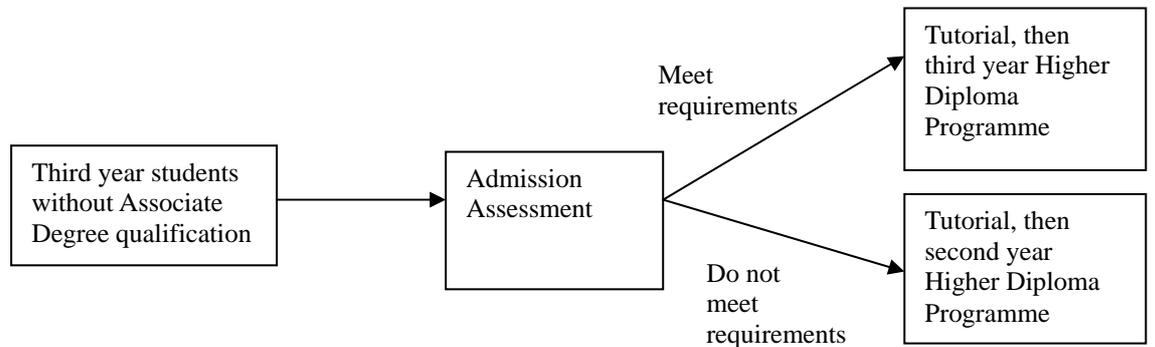
Third Year Options

Higher Diploma in Nursing Programme



Remarks:

- *Students who do not meet the entry requirements must make-up the deficiency in 12 months' time or before the Higher Diploma Program final examination, whichever period is shorter*



Remarks: *Students who do not meet the entry requirements must make-up the deficiency in 12 months' time*

Enrolled Nurse Training Programme

