



UNIVERSITY OFTM
KWAZULU-NATAL

INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR:

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FAMILY MEDICINE



PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this diploma is to enable working general practitioners to expand their knowledge and skills in Family Medicine and Primary Health Care. The programme aims to enhance the quality of general practice by capacitating primary care doctors to fulfil their roles as competent doctors, change agents, collaborative clinicians, capability builders, critical thinkers and community advocates in the future South African Primary Health Care System

Using the philosophies and principles of Family Medicine, the programme will enable doctors to comprehensively manage common obstetric, paediatric, medical, surgical and psychiatric conditions and emergencies that present initially as undifferentiated problems. The diploma will serve to consolidate and deepen a doctor's understanding of theoretical concepts and mastery essential generalist skills.



COURSE CONTENT

The duration of the diploma is 2 years incorporating a modularized curriculum. There will be 4 modules covered in 4 semesters (2 per year) as follows :

Foundations of Family Medicine and Bioethics

Maternal, Child and Mental Health

Acute and Chronic Diseases

Practice Management and Communicable Disease

The teaching philosophy underpinning the program will be adult, self-directed learning with a blended approach involving minimal campus based teaching, web based teaching and workplace based peer learning. The learning will be based around problems encountered in practice and participants will be encouraged to “discover” best practice. The teaching will be more facilitative learning rather than didactic teaching.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Competent Clinician

- Perform a patient centered consultation using a bio- psycho social medical approach in dealing with undifferentiated problems in primary care.
- Ensure maintenance of high ethical, legal, professional and sound standards in practice.
- Demonstrate competence in the use of the tools and principles of Family Medicine.
- Perform an appropriate physical examination on patients using the above skills.
- Investigate patients based on a comprehensive cost effective approach on an individualized basis.
- Demonstrate competence in procedures essential to the area of Family Medicine.
- Provide comprehensive, coordinated and continuing care (preventative, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, palliative).

Change Agent

- **Communicate with patients and their families about their conditions and treatment in order to optimize their participation in treatment and prevention.**
- **Provide leadership for service delivery in the district health system.**
- **Reflect on and develop his/her leadership capability in order to be a change agent for a specific facility or service.**
- **Facilitate a quality Improvement cycle with the CHC team on aspects of clinical care, clinical performance, patient experience or COPC.**

Collaborator

- **Create and sustain harmonious and effective service delivery teams.**
- **Facilitate cooperation amongst stakeholders in addressing health needs and PHC indicators of patients and communities.**

Capability Builder

- **Benchmark clinical practice against peers, national and international standards, using available evidence.**
- **Mentor junior colleagues in the area of specialty.**
- **Demonstrate effective practice management skills.**
- **Reflect on their own professional needs, and design and implement an appropriate learning plan.**

Critical Thinker

- **Analyze and respond to health systems changes.**
- **Analyze statistical data in the area of specialty and service in order to identify trends, service and/or treatment deficiencies.**

Community Advocate

- **Demonstrate knowledge of the workings of the district health system.**
- **Co-ordinate the holistic care of patients with health care providers and facilities in their communities/geographic service area.**

ELIGIBILITY

The minimum entry requirement is a recognised MBChB degree and registration with the HPCSA as a medical practitioner.

Candidates will be required to be practising in an ambulatory patient setting for the duration of the programme.

Applicants will be required to submit a letter of motivation which will be used in the selection process.

REQUIREMENTS

Tuition will be delivered mainly by internet technology which will enable to access to resource materials, study guides, self—assessment quizzes, interaction with each other and tutors.

In order to participate in the course the following technical specifications are recommended:

Internet access

Computer Hardware— Min Pentium 4, 2.0 GHz with 1 Gb RAM, 80 Gig hard drive, Windows XP SP3 with Internet Explorer 6 and Javascript RTE 6.0

ASSESSMENT

Each module will be assessed individually through a Formative component comprising a portfolio of learning and an end of module Summative component comprising of a written and clinical (OSCE) examination. In addition a national integrated exit examination may be written.

CONTACT DETAILS

Applicants must submit a completed application form (download from UKZN website), curriculum vitae, and a letter of motivation to:

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