

Challenges to Nursing in CAPES: highly qualified products

The Area of Nursing in CAPES – Coordination of High Level Personnel Training – demonstrates its pledge to increase both the number of Programs and the expansion of Courses and the qualification of its main products, advanced scientific or technological knowledge, published in high impact journals, and of highly qualified human resources.

Master's Degree formation in Nursing in Brazil started in the 1970s and PhDs in the 1980s; gradually they were consolidated in their specificities and diversities, combining and integrating knowledge with others sectors that are determinants of life and health for better care of citizens as human beings in their full complexity.

Currently there are in Brazil 32 stricto sensu Graduate Programs accredited by CAPES, of which 14 of PhD level (of these, 13 offer Master's Degree level as well); 16 offer just Master's Degrees; and two offer Professional Master's Degree.

In order to promote the advance in the Area in terms of science and technology, they form masters and PhDs in Nursing focused in areas of concentration, research lines and research projects made possible through the research groups registered in the Research Directory of the CNPq – National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. In this process of construction of investigative competences, they integrate undergraduate studies and the practical experience of the Nursing profession and of other areas, in different scenarios, contemplating the diversity of knowledge and practices.

Those activities have been making possible advances in the qualification of undergraduates, masters and PhDs of the area, as well as a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the production of knowledge supported by fostering agencies. To do that they require Master's Degree, Phd and sandwich scholarships, as well as scientific initiation scholarships for undergraduate students, fellowships for post-docs and other types of financial aid.

The area of Nursing in CAPES is being consolidated, considering the extent of internationalization and international visibility and insertion, whose specificity in terms of general knowledge or specialties seem to be made up in part as biologist and in part as socio-critical, humanistic and political.

Nursing is practiced by a significant number of professionals of the health area, operating to resolve and being contributive to the health of the population.

Nurses'/Nursing's object of work, the definition of their processes and products and the limits of their specificity have been advancing, demonstrating the nature of the area as a wide and diffused professional field, centered in technical-scientific actions with different levels of complexity and with unique and complex organization actions, promoting better being/living and with better health.

Knowledge production advances supported by the view of interdisciplinarity, intersectoriality and complexity, with significant gains and feedbacks to the social needs and internal, regional, national and international impacts as grows the number of high impact publications, absorbed and incorporated into the practice, made available in journals that are increasingly more qualified.

We recognize the contradictions in thinking and practicing Nursing, its social relevance, its resolving competences, its knowledge gaps and the need to generate technologies with patent registration and the social need for its actions, among other things. This is a "young" area in terms of science and technology, with few stricto sensu Graduate programs and a large number of undergraduate courses compared to most of the other health areas.

Its autonomy is being accomplished through the increment of policies that strengthen its specificities and incorporate new actions in its own domain, even though it has historically dealt with losses of its services/products through appropriation by other professions. The property of what it has as competence/aptitude/power to do is being revitalized by attitudes for a professional practice that is always responsible and ever safer.

Brazilian Nursing seems to be determined to accomplish its internationalization, starting with the regional fortresses. Individual and collective efforts, regional and national, the determination to accomplish goals, the strategies to improve the building up of relevant, innovative knowledge, has been a challenging social practice that already shows significant gains.

The history of the Revista da Escola de Enfermagem da USP (REEUSP) illustrates the evolution of Brazilian Nursing's science and technology and is a reference of a space for the publication of the best products of Brazil's Graduate Programs in Nursing, thus contributing for a stronger impact of the Area on society.