

## **A new addition to AUB's Hariri School of Nursing**

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The Hariri School of Nursing (HSON) has recently redesigned and re-launched one of its degree programs that specifically target those who already have a college degree but are looking for fulfilling and lucrative job opportunities.

The redesigned degree track, called the BA/BS-Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program-- or the "second-degree" program, for short— has been revamped to meet US academic standards. It will be added to other degrees on offer, such as the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, for students with a secondary school diploma, and the Registered Nurse--Bachelor of Science in Nursing, for students with a technical degree in nursing and the Masters of Science in Nursing MSN degree which currently has four tracks Nursing Administration, Adult Care, Psychiatry Mental Health Nursing, and Community Nursing.

The "second degree program" is one of the most popular programs in the USA as it allows students who already have an undergraduate degree in either the sciences or the arts to earn another undergraduate degree in nursing.

This BA/BS-BSN degree consists of an accelerated program of two years, following the completion of pre-requisite courses. Students have to complete either 67 or 74 credits, depending on whether they had studied arts or sciences earlier.

"This program is the first of its kind in the Middle East, and is attractive for many reasons," said HSON Director Huda Abu-Saad Huijer.

For instance, those who have obtained a previous degree but are not satisfied with what they had studied may obtain a second degree in nursing in a relatively short period of time, she noted. Moreover, graduates who are unable to find employment opportunities in their field of study may turn to a nursing degree for greater job prospects.

"This second degree is 'education for employment'," Huijer said, "since nurses are guaranteed immediate employment after graduation because of a worldwide shortage of nurses."

According to Raghda Shukri, author of *Status of Nursing in the Arab World*, the growing nursing shortage is especially problematic in the Arab region.

Prospective students have until March 31 to apply to the program and may also be eligible for scholarships or bursaries. According to Huijer, many students both from Lebanon and abroad, have shown great interest in the program.

During the past year, faculty members of the HSON were involved in several activities in addition to teaching, such as conducting research projects and publishing 25 scholarly articles. Moreover, many faculty members served on editorial boards of international journals, while others served as scientific and research grant reviewers. To top it all off, the faculty held a number of scholarly lectures and workshops on a variety of topics addressing issues of

importance to health and nursing care in Lebanon and the region, such as coronary artery disease, cardiac self-care, breast cancer, palliative care, job satisfaction, nurses' retention, nursing education, and nursing research.

The HSON has also identified four programs of research:\* Stress Management, Pain Management and Palliative Care, Health Beliefs and Behavior among the Chronically Ill, and Nursing Workforce.