

Historical Background of the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences 2022-2023 (Revised)

The Mother Patern College of Health Sciences was established in 1989 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Monrovia, under the competent leadership of the late Archbishop Michael Kpakala Frances to train nurses who would meet the health care needs of the society. This was originally known as Mother Patern School of Nursing, named in memory of Mother Mary Patern (Sr. Annunciata Josephine Owens) a Scottish Sister of the order of the Franciscan Missionary of Mary (fmm) who came to Liberia in 1936. She was among the first group of Catholic Missionaries who came to this country. She was the Mother Superior and it was under her leadership that the St. Teresa Convent School and the first Catholic Clinic were built.

In June 1992, a training package in the area of Primary Health Care (PHC) was developed with the main objective of training members of the health team to be better equipped with the knowledge and skills to efficiently and effectively contribute to the health care delivery system of the country. During the same year, the Mother Patern School of Nursing was changed to the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences as a way of accommodating other health profession under the auspices of the Don Bosco Polytechnic. The Basic Nursing Program graduated its first class in 2001. Up to date, the department of Nursing has graduated a total of 592 students; some are in country while others are in the diaspora.

In 1994, the Depart of Medical Laboratory Technology was established. At the initial stage of the program, students were trained in Basic Medical Laboratory Techniques where the students were awarded diploma. A total of 10 students were awarded diploma under this program. The Medical Laboratory Technology Program was upgraded to Associate Degree in 1998 and put out her graduates with Associate Degree in 2001. Up to date the Department of Laboratory technology has graduated 219 students with Associate of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology. The department also has a Post Basic Program and up to date 95 students have received Bachelor Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.

In 1996, the Basic Social Work course was established initially as a four-month certificate course. With the request from Don Bosco Homes, the program was purposely

established to help staff of various child protection agencies develop knowledge and skills in meeting the pressing child protection needs of post-conflict Liberia. The program was upgraded to associate degree level in 2001. In 2007, it was upgraded to a full bachelor degree (BSW) with the first graduating class of 28 students in 2011. Up to date, the department has graduated 203 students with bachelor degree in social work.

In 2002, the General Science Program was established to create further options to students who were desirous of building a strong foundation in the various sciences like Biology chemistry and Physics, etc. It was a foundational discipline that could allow graduates to engage in scientific research and other health related studies.

After the first and final graduation in August 2005 at which time 19 students graduated (one female and 18 males), the program was transformed to Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Biology. The primary purpose and main objective of this program is to prepare and develop people who apply to medical school. Secondly, it is to meet the needs of those wanting to engage in scientific research and environmental studies.

Up to date the program has graduated a total of 262 students. Out of the total graduates, 81 were accepted at the Dogliotti College of Medicine, University of Liberia. Additional 4 enrolled last academic year. 20 have graduated with Doctorate in Medicine, 2 graduated from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Liberia and, one student graduated from the Ukrain Medical School and is now back in the country. Several others are in Cuttington Graduate School studying Public Health. 7 graduates are in other medical schools around the world such as Ukrain Medical School, Ethiopia Medical School, Venezuela Medical School, Kenya Medical College and Sydney Medical School, USA. 1 student graduated from Kenyatta University with masters of science in Medical microbiology while another is studying toxicology in China. Several others have graduated with Master in Public Health.

In 2007, the Primary Health Care Certificate Course was closed and the Health System Management was established to provide the needed management skills that are essential for health workers in management positions in order to drive the newly decentralized National Health Plan. The primary health care course is embedded in the Basic Nursing Curriculum.

The Post Basic Program began in 2001 and at the time, it was intended for Registered Nurses only. This program lasted up to 2012 and graduated a total of 160 students with BSc in

Nursing. The program was later opened to other professionals such as Physician Assistants (PA's) and Registered Midwives (RM) and became known as Post-Basic Health Sciences.

In 2013, the set of graduates included 32 nurses and 15 PA's. Up to date, a total of 454 students have graduated.

The Master of Science in Nursing and Midwifery Education was established at the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences in 2010 through the joint efforts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Catholic Church in Liberia with the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences being the training institution. Candidates, who are given 100 % scholarship, are recommended by nursing and midwifery training institutions across the country. The graduates are expected to return to their affiliating training institutions to facilitate learning effectively; use assessment and evaluation strategies effectively, participate effectively in curriculum design and evaluation of program outcomes, function effectively as change agents and leaders, pursue continuous quality improvement in the profession and the educator's role, and engage in scholarly works. Up to present, the program has graduated sixty-seven (77) nurse and midwifery-educators. Currently, there is a cohort in their final year, while another batch will enroll this academic year. 2022-2023.

The master of Social Work with emphasis in Counseling started in academic year 2021 with 11 students some of whom currently in field practicum while another batch is doing senior courses. A new batch of 11 student is expected to resume their journey this academic year 2022-2023.

Of primary importance to this undertaking is the fact that both the national Health and Social Welfare Policy and plan 2011-2021 and 2009 Mental Health Policy of the Republic of Liberia contain references to human resources situation concerning public sector health and social welfare workers. More specially, the National Mental Health policy highlights the need to train master-level clinical social workers as one aspect of a long-term goal of human resources development and training (ministry of health and Social Welfare, Republic of Liberia, 2009). Furthermore, the MPCHS BSW social work curriculum and the 2011 assessments done by placement agencies of MPCHS social work students' practicum performance clearly point to the relevance, mission, quality and development perspectives of current professional social work training in Liberia

On the overall, Mother Patern has graduated 1,797 students in different fields of study since its foundation.

The College has expanded over the years with one administration block, 13 classrooms, one medical laboratory, one Biology Laboratory, one Nursing Demonstration Room, one computer Lab, one conference room, with 12 staff offices a well stocked library and a simulation lab under construction.

Currently, the various programs that are being run in the college include:

1. Associate of Science Degree in Nursing
2. Bachelor of Science Degree in Post Basic Health Sciences
3. Associate of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology
4. Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology
5. Bachelor Degree in Social Work (BSW)
6. Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology (BSc.)
7. Master's of Science in Nursing Education and Midwifery Education (MSNMed.)
8. Master's in Social Work (MSW)

Soon to come is a master of science in Family Nurse Practitioner.

Coupled with the above listed programs, the college administers the Catholic Archdiocese HIV/AIDS program, which facilitates testing, counseling and working with people living with HIV/AIDS and promoting preventative measures. Also available is a department of special projects that oversees all non-academic activities carried out by the college.

For and on behalf of the Dean Sr. Barbara Brilliant, fmm, the administration, faculty and support staff of the Mother Patern College of Health Sciences, I wholeheartedly welcome you to your different departments and wish you a successful journey. May God Almighty bless us all.