ABSTRACT

**The Relationships Between Entry Qualifications and
Performances in
Nursing Examinations; 1990-1995**

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This ex post facto study was designed to identify factors that can be used to predict performances in the Basic General Nursing Programme of the College of Nursing, NIHERST and the registration examinations of the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Record reviews were done on 82 (22%) students enrolled in the NIHERST Basic General Nursing Programme from March 1990 to December 1995. Criteria for selection of records included successful completion of the nursing programmes and the registration examinations of the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Data Sheets were designed to collect the data. The sample of 82 was selected because of time constraints and the logistics involved in collecting the data.

Logistic Multiple Regression was used to determine which of fourteen variables could be used as predictors of performances on nursing examinations. Ten were for the fourteen science courses in the nursing programme and cumulative performances on the nursing courses (Nursing GPA) and the entire

programme (Final GPA). The other two, Nursing and Final GPAs were for the prediction of performances on the registration examinations. There were seven variables in science and three in mathematics.

The equations were:

$$Y_j = \frac{\exp(I_j)}{1 \times \exp(I_j)}$$

And

$$I_j = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 X_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 X_2 \ldots\ldots + \hat{\beta}_j X_j$$

The results showed that seven predictors emerged; five in science and two in mathematics. The findings were questionable since the number of students with the predictors were few and the relationships were inverse. The students with fewer predictor subjects and lower GPAs had a greater probability to succeed than those with a greater number of subjects and higher GPAs.

The predictors were mainly on first year courses / GPAs. These were Physics, Integrated Science, Human and Social Biology, Number of Science subjects. Physics and Principles of Accounts were the only predictors on GPAs.

The findings were not conclusive but suggested that overall performances in the programme and the registration examinations may not be predicted by the standardized GCE/CXC tests. It is suggested that special tests in Mathematics and Science applicable to the nursing programmes be designed as admission measures. It also suggested that further studies be carried out on all students in the

programmes. In addition, studies should be done on the effects of timetable changes and teacher performances on students' performances.