

Annexe 1: NUS Common Curriculum for Healthcare Professional Education

In line with the emphasis on patient-centric and relationship-based healthcare in Singapore, NUS undergraduate students studying Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy will be able to gain deeper and broader knowledge and understanding of healthcare issues and challenges through a new cross-disciplinary common curriculum.

The new Common Curriculum for Healthcare Professional Education will apply social and behavioural determinants of health to social prescribing and planetary health; use data and digital literacy to enable population healthcare planning, delivery and evaluation; and strengthen interdisciplinary engagement as well as experiential learning.

The Common Curriculum comprises five pillars:

1. Social and Behavioural Determinants of Health (Year 1)

This pillar examines the influence of social and environmental factors on important health outcomes in the life course and across vulnerable groups, as well as how these factors affect lifestyle, preventive, and curative behaviours.

2. Professional Practice 1: The Foundations of Health Professionalism (Year 1)

Students will learn what makes a patient-centric healthcare professional through professional identity formation and communication skills. They will also gain an understanding of the legal and ethical principles underpinning the practice and delivery of health services.

3. Data Literacy for Healthcare (Year 1)

This pillar features components of evidence-based practice, and covers the principles of data analysis as well as decision-making under uncertainty which are relevant to clinical practice.

4. Professional Practice 2: Basic Skills in Health Professionalism (Year 2)

Students will delve deeper into the ethical challenges that commonly arise in clinical practice, health systems, and research, to acquire practical skills in ethical reasoning as well as working and communicating well in multidisciplinary teams.

5. Digital Literacy for Healthcare (Year 2)

This pillar explores skills such as computational thinking, data science, artificial intelligence, and machine learning in the healthcare context, and more.