

# 'The real risk is doing nothing'

Supporting nursing and midwifery students  
with a disability in clinical practice

**Conference Call for papers**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in O'Reilly Hall, UCD**

Legislation requires universities to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities to facilitate their access to post-secondary education. In the case of nursing programs, educators must think beyond the lecture and consider the implications for clinical practice. The preceptor plays a pivotal role in the quality of the clinical experience for all students. The heart of the nursing profession is clinical practice, and only the bedside educator can model nursing's true spirit (Barnes, et al., 1994).

The focus of nursing education programs is to prepare graduates who are able to provide safe, competent nursing care consistent with entry-level competencies and registration requirements. As the number of nursing students registered with a disability continues to increase, there is a growing challenge to understand what needs to change while addressing more difficult issues like the attitudes and biases that may continue to fuel stigma against students with disabilities.

Generally, if a student has a documented disability, accommodations are mandated by law. The nature of some students' accommodations prompts concern about their ability to meet program expectations and registration criteria. This conference will explore such issues, and review good practice both international and national, as preceptors continually develop methods for working with undergraduate nursing and midwifery students with disabilities. Such discussion should result in a clearer understanding and a consistent approach within the Faculty of Nursing (both the lecture hall and the clinical setting).

AHEAD – the Association of Higher Education Access and Disability, together with School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems University College Dublin aim to advance the skills and recognise the hard work of faculty staff and preceptors from all specialties, as they face these new challenges.

This event is aimed primarily at nurses and midwives in preceptor, academic and supervisory roles but will also appeal to policy makers, professional bodies, human resource professionals and student nurses.

If you are interested in presenting a paper please send a 300-word abstract by Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 to Mary at [ahead@ahead.ie](mailto:ahead@ahead.ie).

Further information and conference booking will be available when the agenda has been finalised at [www.ahead.ie](http://www.ahead.ie).

Organized by AHEAD in association with the UCD School of Nursing

 **ahead**

Association for Higher Education Access & Disability

