

**Como citar este artigo**

Carvalho, JB; Padilha, MI. [Nursing course at UFSC: 50 years of a beautiful history of challenges and success]. *Hist enferm Rev eletrônica* [Internet]. 2019; 10(1):4-6.

Nursing course at UFSC: 50 years of a beautiful history of challenges and success

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2019 is a year of celebration for Nursing in the state of Santa Catarina; after all it has been 50 years since the creation of the Nursing Course at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) (1969-2019). This Course was born at a time when the situation of Nursing and Health in Santa Catarina was chaotic; there was a scarce number of professionals for an infinity of health problems among the population. The Course was designed and created with the objective of training qualified nurses capable of modifying the poor health reality that was present in the State.

In addition to the shortage, the nurses in the State realized that they also had no associative life, since the section of the Brazilian Association of Nursing (ABEn) was located in Rio Grande de Sul. Finally, on March 13, 1962, the Brazilian Association of Nursing – Santa Catarina section (ABEn-SC) was created, led by nurse Sister Cacilda and with active participation of the nurses Ursula Engel and Flerida Goudel de Cardoso. Convinced that they needed a space for their discussions and for joining forces to fight for the Nursing space in the State, these nurses, together with a few who lived in the city of Florianópolis, consulted the board of the National ABEn about the legal procedures of this process and soon began to create the ABEn-SC.⁽¹⁾

Through Sister Cacilda together with the Secretary of Health of Florianópolis, Dr. Fernando Oswaldo de Oliveira, the Nurse practitioner was reclassified as a Higher Education Professional, earning a higher salary than the other nursing categories. From the visibility and the committed work carried out by the nurses, the Secretary and the pediatrician, Dr. Miguel Salles Cavalcanti, requested in 1963 the assistance of Nurses Sister Cacilda and Ursula Engel to the Commission of Implementation of the Edith Gama Ramos Children's Hospital (HIEGR). These nurses were responsible for the organization and implementation of the first Nursing Service in the State, pursuant to the standards of modern administration.⁽²⁾

As of 1964, a group of five nurses were hired from the State of Rio Grande do Sul (RS), who were part of the Nursing team of HIEGR, Eloita Pereira Neves, Irmgard Brueckeimer, Nelcy Terezinha Pacheco Coutinho, Nilsa Borges Paim, and Leonor Borges Caon, who soon returned to Rio Grande

do Sul, being replaced by the nurse Lydia Ignez Rossi. Some of these nurses were hired as professors at the UFSC Nursing Course.⁽³⁾

This course was created in 1969, through Resolution No. 2/1969 of January 24, 1969, signed by Rector Professor João David Ferreira Lima,⁽⁴⁾ as a result of the nurses' motivation who were members of ABEn-SC. Professor Eloita Pereira Neves – President of ABEn-SC at the time, together with the other associated nurses, prepared a memorial justifying the need to create this course, with the objective of promoting the full development of Nursing in Santa Catarina.^(3,5)

The first years of the Nursing Course were years of many challenges, changes of physical spaces, curricular changes, adaptations, structuring of the Course and the faculty, but they were very promising years. The teaching nurses, who worked in the teaching and administrative area, were effectively present in the daily routine of the Nursing Course. The research area was not yet part of the nursing tradition, since the Graduate Courses were only created after 1972. "In the first years of the Nursing Course, teaching was the main concern of the professors. [...] the professors worked slowly in the construction and consolidation of a quality teaching".⁽⁶⁾

To ensure this quality teaching, professor Eloita Pereira Neves was aware of the need for improvement and training of the faculty. Therefore, at the beginning of the hiring, the professors were referred to other institutions of education and health care to deepen the knowledge in the subject that they would teach and for their future administrative positions.⁽⁷⁾

Six years after its creation, UFSC's Nursing Course is recognized, through President Ernesto Geisel' Decree No. 76,853/1975, after evaluation of a special commission of the Federal Council of Education.⁽⁸⁾

In its 50 years of existence, since its creation, UFSC's Nursing Course focused on the quality of education and the duty to train professionals committed to meet the health needs of the society of Santa Catarina. Considering the background, it is necessary to call attention to the teaching nurses in this Course, who since the beginning used their best efforts to offer the best teaching for the students. These professors were politicized, knowledgeable people, who took the Nursing profession seriously, who believed that a well-founded, well-structured, well-organized course with such engaged professors would make and made a difference in State, National, and even International Nursing.

Congratulations to this course that is renewed every day! Congratulations to everyone who have somehow left their mark on this beautiful trajectory of the 50 years of existence of the Nursing Course at the Federal University of Santa Catarina! Long live!

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