



### How to cite this article

Porto F. Specialization in history of nursing. *Hist Enferm Rev Eletrônica*. 2022;13(2):3-4. <https://doi.org/10.51234/here.2022.v13n2.ed>

## Specialization in History of Nursing

**Fernando Porto**<sup>1</sup> ORCID: 0000-0002-2880-724X

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

The term “specialist” means a person who devotes themselves with particular interest and care to a certain study as well as those who dedicate themselves to a certain branch of a profession. This implies, directly and/or indirectly, having attended a *lato sensu* graduate course to deepen knowledge, which has the effect of being a specialized professional. From there, we will discuss the specialization in the field of History of Nursing, to highlight the movement that deserves to be supported in favor of research by the construct coming from the past to the present in Brazilian nursing.

The field of nursing specialization in Brazil has been around for years. For instance, in 1927, at the former *Escola Profissional de Enfermeiros e Enfermeiras*, in the women’s section entitled *Escola Profissional de Enfermeiras Alfredo Pinto*, currently *Escola de Enfermagem Alfredo Pinto*, the Social Visitor Course was created, due to the fact that it takes place after the graduates’ 24-month training at the institution<sup>(1)</sup>.

To have a certain idea, it was there that Dona Ivone Lara acquired her title of Social Visitor, after her training as a nurse at the same institution, in the 1940s<sup>(2-4)</sup>.

It is worth noting that nurses trained in the former *Escola Prática de Enfermeiras da Cruz Vermelha Brasileira* and *Escola de Enfermeiras do Departamento Nacional de Saúde Pública*, currently *Escola de Enfermagem Anna Nery*, when their students graduated, some were sent abroad to take a specialization course in countries as France, Canada and the United States of America, respectively<sup>(5)</sup>.

In 1938, research carried out<sup>(6)</sup> mentioned that, in Brazil, there has been a tentative program for the creation of a “graduate” course, specialization, with discussion that ran until 1947 with the aim of training professors.

Taking a leap in time, in the 1970s, the Federal Nursing Council (Cofen – *Conselho Federal de Enfermagem*) system and its Regionals were created. As a result, several demands occurred, including the recognition of specializations. Therefore, currently, through Cofen Resolution 581/2018<sup>(7)</sup>, we have a list of titles recognized as specialists.

The theme “History of Nursing” has around 33 research groups enrolled in the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq – *Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico*), with intellectual production of dissertations, doctoral theses, post-doctoral reports, articles, books and a specialized journal on the subject, the *Revista de História da Enfermagem* (HERE). Moreover, we can argue with specific events in the field of History of Nursing, such as museums, memory spaces, cultural centers, which aim to preserve the memory of the profession through the legacy left by predecessors. In fact, it is a subject in nursing training since 1923, expanding in *stricto sensu* graduate studies in the 1970s. This implies that professionals, in praxis, have been developing practices and knowledge for almost a century.

On April 26, 2022, Cofen published an article entitled “History of Nursing can be recognized as a specialization”<sup>(8)</sup>. Thinking about this possibility in the field has led the Brazilian Nursing Association

### Corresponding author



Fernando Porto  
E-mail: [ramosporto@openlink.com.br](mailto:ramosporto@openlink.com.br)

(ABEn – *Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem*) and the Brazilian Academy of History of Nursing (ABRADHENF – *Academia Brasileira de História da Enfermagem*), through presidents Dr. Sonia Acioli and Dr. Luciana Barizon Luchesi, respectively, to ask the municipality to recognize an area of knowledge of nursing to be included in the list of specialization. This initiative created the Scientific Department of History of Nursing at ABEn, led by Dr. Maria Angélica de Almeida Peres and her team on the board, demanding that the higher levels of both institutions accept the request.

The current president of Cofen, Dr. Betânia Santos, accepted the request to hold the first specialist exam in History of Nursing for future consideration by the plenary.

At the end of the Cofen article, the president declared that “The meeting was very productive. Cofen has already been discussing the importance of keeping the history of our profession alive and we understand the ABEn proposal as necessary”<sup>(8)</sup>. This evidences the positivity of reception for recognition, with a view to carrying out the specialization test, scheduled to take place at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Brazilian Nursing Congress, when the 6<sup>th</sup> Latin American Colloquium on the History of Nursing will also take place, in Salvador, Bahia, 2022.

In the certainty that we will advance further in the field of History of Nursing, we anxiously await the granting of the first specialists in the field, with the possibility of creating graduate courses in History of Nursing.

The year 2022 leaves signs of what is to come for the field of History of Nursing. This does not mean that we will not continue in the struggle for professional development, teaching History of Nursing, training professionals, maintaining traditions, memories so that oblivion does not erase them, as well as the search for more places that can preserve them, in respect of those who did/do for nursing in care, education, management, research and politics. This implies maintaining dialogue with other areas of knowledge, in order to be references and more referenced in our field and others, contributing to scientific evidence and sociocultural visibility.

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