Background

Longer average life expectancies and an ageing society have made long-term care a worldwide urgent and important issue. In Taiwan, the elderly population reached 13% in 2016 and it has been projected to reach 20% in 2026.

To meet this trend, preparation of sufficient and highly qualified nurses have become the most important task to reach this goal.

Purpose

To survey current situation Geriatric Nursing (GN) and/or Long Term Care (LTC) courses offered in baccalaureate nursing programs in Taiwan.

To described which specific GN or LTC content and competencies are included in baccalaureate nursing education programs in Taiwan.

Method

Data were obtained from the official websites and nationwide questionnaire survey for the review of the contents of current baccalaureate programs in GN and/or LTC course offered in baccalaureate nursing programs in Taiwan.

A descriptive research design was used and detailed checklist review was applied.

Results

Baccalaureate Nursing Programs offered with Curriculum in Geriatric Nursing and Long Term Care (shown in Table 1).

Table 1
Current curriculum (n=25) Geriatric Nursing n (%) Long Term Care n (%) Both Courses n (%)
General university (n=14) 10 (71.43) 8 (57.14) 8 (57.14)
University of science and technology (n=11) 9 (81.82) 10 (90.91) 8 (72.72)

Conclusion

The survey findings indicated that GN and LTC education must be recognized by providing required stand-alone courses and interdisciplinary education in nursing curricula. These courses should be included in curricular design and innovations so as to ensure nursing students to acquire strong competence for the future through education.