

## HISTORY OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HEALTH CARE: TEN YEARS OF CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Elizabeth Barichello<sup>1</sup>, Maria Helena Barbosa<sup>2</sup>

In 2007, the Graduate Program in Health Care had the Master degree course approved by Capes and began operations in early 2008. That means 10 years of challenges and achievements.

From the restlessness of a teaching group of the Nursing undergraduate course in Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro, in light of the local and national scenery lived at the time with the expansion of undergraduate courses, it was perceived the need for training of professionals in health and nursing areas, especially the teaching and dissemination of qualified scientific knowledge.

In this context, this group began discussions and reflections, emerging, then the design of this Postgraduate Program with the master degree program.

In 2008, they started the master degree course activities with a group of ten permanent teachers, offering nine vacancies for regular students. Faced with the demand and the increasing qualified teaching scientific production there was a gradual increase in the number of vacancies and in 2017 23 vacancies were offered.

Since the beginning to mid-2017 136 teachers obtained their graduate degrees with the average period of 22 months for the defense. To this day, the Master's degree program has the support of scholarships offered by CAPES and FAPEMIG.

During this period, new teachers were registered and a stable framework has been maintained since 2010, with marked increase of qualified scientific production in the nursing field.

Considering the need for meeting, in particular, the increasing demand of the alumni of the Master Program in Health Care to the qualification of the teaching and research in the region of Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba, besides the stimuli of UFTM related to the expansion of the *stricto sensu* Programs, as well the growth of the program regarding the scientific production, the Committee of the Program (PPGAS) considered pertinent the submission of the proposal to create the academic doctorate course in health care with CAPES, having been approved in 2012.

In 2013, in the first term, the Doctorate Program started its activities offering six vacancies, also with the support of scholarships by CAPES and FAPEMIG. Currently, the doctorate course counts with 12 scholarships and 39 students enrolled. Since the beginning, six doctorate students, entering the first class, have obtained their degree.

We also highlight the creation of the Journal of Nursing and Health Care by the Program in 2012, which has contributed to the spread of national and international scientific articles.

Currently, there are 48 students enrolled in the Graduate Program in Health Care and 39 in the Doctorate Program. The teaching production, since the beginning, has increased both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The program has a stable permanent faculty board, made up of 12 teachers, which has managed fundraising for projects with agencies of national development and held important national and international partnerships. It must also point out that the program has the support of a statistician to their research projects, with a professional specially dedicated to this activity together with the teachers and students of the program.

We highlight the dedication and commitment of teachers, students and secretariat of PPGAS, which have contributed to raise the grade from CAPES in the ratings. Challenges remain and the pursuit of excellence has been our focus.

---

<sup>1</sup>PhD in Nursing. Associate Professor of the Federal University of Triangulo Mineiro. Didactic-Scientific Department of Nursing in Hospital Care. Graduate Program in Health Care.

<sup>2</sup>PhD in Nursing in Adult Health. Associate Professor of the Federal University of Triangulo Mineiro. Didactic-Scientific Department of Nursing in Hospital Care. Graduate Program in Health Care.