



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences

## **Programme Study Plan**

### **Prehospital Nursing**

- Programme Code:** VASAM
- Programme Title:** Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care
- Credits/ECTS:** 60 credits
- Programme Approval:** The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 8 June 2011 (Dnr FAK3 2011/139) and is valid from the autumn semester of 2012.
- Language of Instruction:** Swedish
- Degree Level:** Master (60 credits)
- Degree Type:** General and Professional qualifications
- Prerequisites:** A Nursing licence issued by the Social Welfare Agency.

**Special requirements:**

Nursing degree (180 ECTS credits) including degree project of at least 15 ECTS cr, or Bachelor's degree in health care, or equivalent  
One year's work experience as a full-time licensed nurse.  
Upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish 2 B and English A.

## **General Information**

The programme leads to a postgraduate diploma in specialist nursing in prehospital emergency care, as well as a Degree of Master (1 year).

Working as a prehospital nurse entails a high ability to work independently and to handle complex nursing situations in the field of prehospital emergency care. It requires capacity for independence of action and judgement in combination with the ability to assess one's own capacities and limitations as well as those of the patients.

It also requires the ability to assess different possibilities on the basis of different situational aspects. A specialist nurse must be able to follow, implement and contribute to research and development and to initiate and lead improvement projects.

The profession also involves making adequate judgements, priorities and follow-ups to ensure that correct measures are taken in order to save lives and to prevent complications in various prehospital situations, such as in the home, on the site of the accident, and in the ambulance. Prehospital nurses must be ready to act professionally in multi-cultural environments and in response to major accidents and disasters. The prehospital nurse must act with the safety and security of the patients in mind, respecting their integrity and right to make their own decisions. Adequate prehospital nursing requires medical as well as nursing knowledge and skills.

The specialist competence of prehospital nurses qualifies them to take a leading role in managing and planning the care given; it also qualifies them to collaborate with members of other professions and to supervise students.

## **Aims and Learning Outcomes**

The length, content and degree level of the study programme are regulated by the statutes and guidelines below, ensuring that graduates meet the programme requirements, qualification requirements for further postgraduate studies, and EU requirements for nurses.

Chapter 1, § 9, of the Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434, 2006:173) states that Master-level studies should largely build on knowledge acquired at undergraduate level or the equivalent. Master-level students are expected to deepen the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired at undergraduate level. Students are also expected to

- further develop their ability to integrate and implement theoretical knowledge in their work,
- develop their ability to deal with complex situations, questions and phenomena, and
- develop their ability to work independently and contribute to research and development work.

The Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100) lists the national aims and objectives common to all educational programmes for specialist nurses. For a degree in specialist nursing to be awarded, students should demonstrate the ability to work as a specialist nurse. The following list of requirements applies to all specialist nursing programmes in Sweden.

### *Knowledge and understanding*

To earn a degree in specialist nursing, students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of the field, an understanding of current research and development, and an understanding of the links between science and proven experience and their importance to professional practice,
- demonstrate a specialised ability to plan, perform and evaluate as well as lead and coordinate health care.

### *Skills and abilities*

To earn a degree in specialist nursing, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a deeper ability to work independently and in collaboration with patients and their family members in identifying patient needs and formulating a care plan,
- demonstrate the ability to lead and evaluate care and treatment,
- demonstrate a deeper ability to initiate, carry out and evaluate health promotion and preventive care,
- demonstrate the ability to integrate theory and to analyse, assess and manage complex questions and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to take part in and supervise medical examinations and treatments including palliative care, and
- demonstrate the ability to advise and instruct pedagogically.

### *Judgement and approach*

To earn a degree in specialist nursing, students should be able to:

- demonstrate self-knowledge and empathy,
- demonstrate the ability to make a holistic evaluation of a course of treatment on the basis of relevant scientific, societal, and ethical aspects with special focus on human rights,
- demonstrate a professional approach to patients and their family members, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training.

Upon completion of the Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care at Karlstad University, students should also be able to:

- demonstrate ability to independently assess the sick or injured person's somatic and mental status and immediate needs, and demonstrate ability to take the necessary measures to help patients in very different situations and circumstances, and
- demonstrate ability to apply their specialist knowledge in major accidents and disasters.
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In addition to the national objectives listed above, the specialist nursing programme at Karlstad University conforms to the national objectives which regulate general Master's degrees (SFS 1992:100) as well as the laws and statutes which regulate prehospital care nursing.

### **Programme Structure**

The programme is offered part-time with a full-time option in connection with the clinical placement (15 ECTS cr) and the degree project 15 ECTS cr). It is offered in conjunction with a number of county council hospitals, which can also be actively involved in the programme. Students have the opportunity to participate in various study groups, which often include the professional field mentor and the main supervisor. Students are given the opportunity to develop their ability to reflect on their professional role and to approach their work as prehospital emergency care nurses with an increased level of awareness of what this work entails. Instruction is partly web-based with different ICT tools, and in the form of on-campus meetings.

The forms of instruction vary and include independent study, group work, lectures, simulation, supervision and seminars. Students are responsible for their own learning process and are expected to be active and disciplined. The role of the teacher is to supervise, support and guide the students in their pursuit of knowledge. The programme integrates theoretical and practical knowledge to optimise the acquisition of professional competence based on science and well-founded experience. The courses gradually become more advanced and are continuously linked to prehospital nursing in practice. Practical group exercises and practical examination with patient simulator will be carried out during the theoretical courses.

The clinical placement is based on course learning outcomes. The planning and assessment of the placement take place in consultation between student, professional field mentor, the main supervisor and the instructor with the purpose of gradually identifying needs for knowledge and gradually increase knowledge. Students are expected to develop and reinforce their professional competence. Students are assigned a professional training placement, primarily in one of the county council hospitals that participate in the programme, or at any other county council provided that the supervision model can be implemented and an agreement has been reached between the parties. Students may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses in connection with the training period.

Students are encouraged to take part in studies on other cultures and their health care systems in the hope of promoting cross-national and cross-cultural knowledge and understanding. Students are offered the opportunity to partake in international studies and activities at the university and they may apply to take certain courses or parts of courses abroad.

### **Programme Curriculum**

The Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care comprises 60 ECTS credits. Students take six courses in prehospital nursing related to prehospital emergency care and include both theoretical and practical course components.

The main subject is nursing science and includes clinical medicine. Each course covers both these subject areas, thereby encouraging students to take a holistic perspective. Each course also incorporates research method corresponding to 7.5 ECTS credits.

For the postgraduate diploma in specialist nursing and the Master of Science degree to be awarded, students must complete and submit a degree project comprising 15 credits in the main subject nursing science with a focus on prehospital emergency care.

The clinical placement comprises 10 weeks of full-time practice. The training includes clinical studies in a medico-technical unit and with patient simulator as well as field studies.

During the course of study, students will broaden and deepen previously acquired knowledge in the field of nursing science combined with clinical medicine, with a special emphasis on prehospital emergency care.

The programme covers the following subject areas:

- Nursing Science: Prehospital Nursing, 30 credits
- Medical Science: Prehospital Nursing, 30 credits

#### *Nursing Science with an Emphasis on Prehospital Emergency Care*

Nursing Science is the main subject on this programme. It is also the foundation for all prehospital emergency care nursing. Prehospital nurses care for patients on site, in the ambulance and other prehospital transportation. As a science discipline, nursing has a patient-oriented and clinical-based character. Nursing research provides practitioners with evidence-based knowledge. Central concepts in nursing science are the human being, health, the environment and care implementation. Nursing science is founded in a holistic view on human beings. The aim is to preserve health and well-being, prevent ill health and disease, maintain and restore health in accordance with the needs of the individual, reduce suffering and enable patients to die with dignity. The relationship between nurse, patient, and next-of-kin is central to nursing and it is characterised by a holistic, ethical and scientific approach.

The profession of the prehospital emergency nurse includes assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care methods in relation to the individual's experiences of health and ill health.

### *Medical Science with an Emphasis on Prehospital Emergency Care*

Prehospital emergency care includes the immediate medical measures that the nurse takes outside the hospital. This entails a great responsibility and calls for good ability to make decisions in complex situations that require safety and security awareness and threats and risk assessment. Medical Science components have a focus on providing further knowledge in the following areas: acute and chronic illnesses; accident and emergency nursing with an emphasis on respiration, cardiology, neurology, endocrinology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, obstetrics and paediatrics; and rescue and disaster medicine with an emphasis on traumatology and triage.

### *Courses*

Students take the following courses:

- Assessment and Care in Prehospital Emergency Care, 7.5 credits
- Emergency Care in Prehospital Nursing, 7.5 credits
- Trauma Care in Prehospital Nursing, 9 credits
- Triage and Nursing Management in Prehospital Nursing, 6 credits
- Prehospital Emergency Care in Theory and Practice, 15 credits
- Degree Project: Prehospital Nursing, 15 credits

See Appendix for further details.

### **Examination**

Examination forms are specified in each syllabus.

### **Degree Awarded**

The professional degree awarded is

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing – Prehospital Emergency Care.

The general degree awarded is

Master of Science (60 credits). Major: Nursing Science

### **Transfer of Credits**

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad. The recognition of previous education as credit for part of a course is subject to approval by the examiner. The recognition of previous education as credit for an entire course is subject to approval by the Office for Student Services.

### **Additional Information**

#### *Duration*

The duration of the study programme is indicated by the number of credits it yields as a full-time study programme; 40 weeks is equivalent to 60 credits. (Chapter 6, § 2 of The Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1992:100).

#### *Moving Up*

In order to move up to the next level, students must meet any additional admission requirements specified in the course syllabus.

#### *Local Regulations*

Local regulations at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

#### *Student Expulsion Procedures*

As stipulated in the *Higher Education Act* Ch. 4, sect. 6, SFS 1992: 1434, and Regulations of Student Expulsion from Higher Education SFS 1987: 915, a student who suffers from mental disorder, abuses

alcohol or drugs, or has been guilty of a serious offence endangering others or valuable property can be expelled until further notice. In such a case, the Rector files a complaint to the Expulsion Board of Higher Education, which investigates the matter and makes a decision. A decision of expulsion shall always entail that the student must discontinue the education until further notice. The Expulsion Board of Higher Education is responsible for all Swedish higher education institutions.

Supplement. Overview of course structure in the study programme.

Karlstad University approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 8 June 2011 (Dnr FAK3 2011/139) and is valid from the autumn semester of 2012.

### Summary: Nursing Specialisation in Pre-hospital Emergency Care, 60 ECTS credits, part time studies

Nursing Science, 30 ECTS credits and Medical Science, 30 ECTS credits are included.

Terms 1 and 2 (corresponding to 30 credits) are part-time studies. Students are then free to choose full-time or part-time.

#### Term 1

| Term 1 (part-time)   |  | Term 2 (part-time)  |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Course: Assessment and Care in Prehospital Emergency Nursing</b> 7.5 ECTS Credits | <b>Course: Emergency Care in Prehospital Nursing</b> , 7.5 credits | <b>Course: Trauma Care in Prehospital Nursing</b> , 9 credits | <b>Course: Triage and Nursing Management in Prehospital Nursing</b> , 6 credits |

#### Terms 3 and 4 for part-time students

| Term 3 (part-time)   |   | Term 4 (part-time)   |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Course: Prehospital Emergency Care in Theory and Practice</b> 15 credits (part-time 10 weeks) | <b>Course: Degree project with an emphasis on prehospital emergency care</b> (4 vweeks of 20 part-time) | <b>Course: 15 hp Prehospital Emergency Care in Theory and Practice</b> ( <i>continued</i> ) (the course continues 4 weeks into term 4) | <b>Course: Degree project with an emphasis on prehospital emergency care, 15 hp</b> ( <i>continued</i> ) (16 vweeks of 20 part-time) |

#### Term 3 for full-time students

| Term 3 (full-time)   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Course: Prehospital Emergency Care in Theory and Practice 15 hp</b><br><i>Clinical placement 10 weeks full-time</i> | <b>Course: Degree project with an emphasis on prehospital emergency care, 15 credits</b><br><i>10 weeks full-time</i> |