



Faculty for Social and Life Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Study Programme in Nursing

Programme Code:	VGSSK
Programme Title:	Study Programme in Nursing Study Programme in Nursing
Credits:	180 ECTS Credits
Programme Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 24 February 2010 (Dnr FAK3 2010/49) and is valid from the spring semester of 2011.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree Level:	Bachelor
Degree Type:	Professional The Programme Study Plan meets the requirements for a general Bachelor of Social Science Degree
Prerequisites:	General admission requirements plus upper secondary level Social Science A, Mathematics B, and <i>either</i> Natural Science C <i>or</i> Physics A, Chemistry A, and Biology A. (field-specific eligibility 16, see www.kau.se/omradesbehoriget).

Introduction

The Study Programme in Nursing at Karlstad University will provide the knowledge and professional skills required to work as a nurse, as well as provide prerequisites for further academic studies.

A registered nurse works with an ethical approach and in agreement with science and experience. The registered nurse works within many different fields and areas of care with various tasks. The work of a nurse can be divided into three main categories: Theory and Practice of Nursing, Research, Development and Training, and Leadership. General and ethical approaches are the basis for all areas of competence.

This means to:

- have a humanistic approach to people as a starting point for values
- show concern and respect for the autonomy, integrity and dignity of the patient
- take knowledge and experience of patients and/or next of kin into account
- show openness and respect for different values and beliefs
- speak for the patient and/or next of kin, based on their wishes and needs
- apply current research ethical conventions
- make use of the knowledge/experience of the working team and others by co-operating and contributing to a general picture of the patient

(Kompetensbeskrivningar för legitimerad sjuksköterska, National Board of Health and Welfare, 2005).

The aims of the study programme

Basic level education must develop the students'

- ability to make independent and critical assessments,
- ability to independently discern, describe and solve problems, and
- preparation for handling changes in the working life.

Within the field of study, the students will acquire knowledge and skill, but also develop their ability to

- seek and assess knowledge at a scientific level,
- follow knowledge development, and
- exchange knowledge with individuals who lack expert skills in the area

(1 ch. 8 § Högskolelagen SFS 2006:173).

For all nursing education in Sweden, vocational qualification as a nurse is reached after completing the course requirements of 180 ECTS and the specific aims of study, described in Higher Education Ordinance Appendix on Degrees (SFS 2006:1053). For a degree in nursing, the student must show the necessary knowledge and skill to become a registered nurse.

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree in nursing, the student must

- show knowledge about the scientific basis of the area and familiarity with current research and development work, as well as knowledge of the connection between science and proven experience, and the significance of this connection to the profession,
- show skills in planning, leading and coordinating care and health care work,
- show knowledge of the societal situations affecting the health of children, women and men, and
- show knowledge of relevant regulations.

Skill and ability

For a degree in nursing, the student must

- show an ability to work independently, and in collaboration with the patient and next of kin, identify caring needs, establish a care plan and provide care and treatment,
- show an ability to handle medication in an adequate manner and be able to inform the patient about the effects and side-effects of the medication,
- show an ability to identify needs for and carry out health-promoting and preventive work,
- show an ability to initiate method improvements and quality assurance,
- show an ability to apply knowledge in order to handle various situations, phenomena and questions based on the needs of individuals and groups,
- show an ability to inform and teach different groups, as well as carry out tutoring tasks,
- show an ability to describe and discuss, verbally and in writing, measures and treatment results with relevant individuals, and to document these in accordance with relevant regulations,
- show an ability for team work and co-operation with other groups of profession, and
- show an ability to scrutinize, assess and use relevant information, as well as discuss new facts, phenomena and questions with different target groups, thereby contributing to the development of the profession and the operation.

Approach and ability to evaluate

For a degree in nursing, the student must

- show self-knowledge and empathy
- show the ability to take a broad perspective of the human being and perform assessments of actions based on relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects with certain attention to human rights,
- show the ability for a professional approach towards patients and next of kin, and
- show an ability to identify their need for further knowledge and continuous competence development.

For a degree in nursing the student must, within the scope of the course requirements, complete a degree thesis of 15 ECTS credits minimum.

In addition to the aims of the Higher Education Ordinance Appendix of Degrees stated above, the Nursing Programme at Karlstad University has been modelled on the aims for a general Bachelor's degree (SFS 2006:1053) and in accordance with current laws and regulations for the nursing profession.

The aims of the Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS credits) are the following:

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree in nursing, the student must

- show knowledge and understanding of the study programme's major field of study, including knowledge of its scientific basis, knowledge of applicable methods within the area, specialization within some part of the area, as well as show familiarity with current research topics.

Ability and skill

For a degree in nursing, the student must

- show ability to seek, collect, assess and critically interpret relevant data in relation to a specific question, and keep a critical discussion of phenomena, issues and situations
- show ability to independently identify, formulate and solve problems, and to carry out assignments within given time limits,

- show ability to report and discuss information, problems and solutions, both verbally and in writing, in dialogue with different groups, and
- show such abilities as are required to be able to independently work within the area concerning the study programme.

Ability to evaluate and approach

For a degree in nursing, the student must

- show ability to, within the major field of study of the study programme, make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects,
- show insight into the role of knowledge in society and of mankind's responsibility for how knowledge is used, and
- show ability to identify her/his needs for further knowledge and ability to continually develop her/his competence.

Study programme organisation

The Study Programme in Nursing comprises 180 ECTS credits and combines integrated courses in Nursing Science (100 ECTS credits), Medical Science (50 ECTS credits) and Social- and Behavioural Sciences (15 ECTS credits) (appendix 1). Furthermore, the study programme comprises two elective courses of 15 ECTS credits, one of which focuses a current research area for the Faculty for Social and Life Sciences (see the faculty's homepage). The second elective course must have relevance for the nurse's professional skills. The study programme comprises Scientific Methods in Nursing (15 ECTS credits) where 7,5 ECTS credits are integrated into the courses (appendix 1). The study programme contains 60 weeks of Clinical Studies, where 32 weeks constitute clinical trainee work. It is possible to carry out parts of the educational process abroad.

Pedagogical basis and teaching methods

The pedagogical basis of the education sustains the belief that the human being is unique, sensible, responsible and reflecting, with a natural need for knowledge. The study programme should provide good conditions for learning and for personal development. Knowledge is understood to be a personal and social phenomena requiring context.

Throughout the study programme knowledge is obtained through a continuous process in order to gradually create a greater overview and insight of context. The teaching methods are thus designed to stimulate the student's active participation and individual sense of responsibility. The student is assumed to want to independently seek, critically assess, analyse, evaluate and document knowledge and thereby develop a scientific approach.

Nursing Science, Medical Science and Social- and Behavioural Sciences are integrated into the programme. The educational width, depth and complexity are gradually increased throughout the programme. Initially, the needs of the healthy human being is topic for study, followed by studies in nursing in relation to specific symptoms and signs of illness, and finally the programme focuses nursing in relation to complex illness. The progression of the programme requires that knowledge obtained in previous levels constitute a base for further learning, a progression model that puts increased demands on the student's independent sense of responsibility (appendix 1).

The pedagogical methods vary and consist, among other things, of independent studies, group work, lectures, tutoring and seminars. Throughout the programme theoretical and practical knowledge is integrated in order to obtain professional proficiency based on scientific grounds as well as reliable experience. The programme contains 60 weeks of clinical studies. Clinical studies comprise studies with explicit connection to clinical work, such as simulated patient cases and exercises in nursing methods and techniques, as well as clinical trainee work in the

field. The student's professional development and her/his self-knowledge are fostered throughout the educational programme, through a continuous reflection process and supervision, as well as through participation in professional supervision.

Contents of the study programme

The study programme contains courses integrating nursing science, medical science and social- and behavioural sciences (appendix 1). Nursing science is the major field of study of the nursing programme, and constitutes the knowledge base for the independent practice of the nurse's profession. Nursing as a scientific discipline constitutes a clear patient focus and clinical rooted. Nursing research provides the practical nursing work with evidence-based knowledge. Central concepts in nursing are the human being, health, environment and nursing methods. Nursing is based on a humanistic approach. Nursing aims to promote good health, prevent ill health and illness, maintain and restore health based on the opportunities and needs of the individual, alleviate suffering and facilitate a dignified death. A central part of nursing is the relation between the nurse, the patient and the next of kin. Relations that are characterised by a comprehensive view, an ethical and scientific approach. Part of the nurse's profession consists in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care treatments aimed at individuals' and groups' experiences of health and ill health. This implies identifying experiences of illness, symptoms and disabilities, as well as identifying needs for self-care and resources for promoting health and adjustments to changes of lifestyle.

The nursing programme consists of the following courses:

Nursing from a health perspective, 30 ECTS credits (G1N)¹

Fundamentals of nursing, 30 ECTS credits (G1N)

Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness I, 30 ECTS credits (G1F)

Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness II, 15 ECTS credits (G1F)

Elective course, 7.5 ECTS credits

Elective course, 7.5 ECTS credits

Nursing in relation to complex illness I, 22.5 ECTS credits (G2F)

Scientific methods in nursing 7.5 ECTS credits (G2F)

Degree thesis in nursing, 15 ECTS credits (G2E)

Nursing in relation to complex illness II, 15 ECTS credits (G2F)

Appendix 2. Overview of course structure in the nursing programme

The course Nursing from a health perspective integrates Nursing, 13 ECTS credits, Medical Sciences (anatomy, physiology and microbiology), 10 ECTS credits, and Social- and Behavioural Sciences (Psychology, Public Health and Sociology), 7 ECTS credits. The course Fundamentals of nursing integrates Nursing, 20 ECTS credits, and Medical Sciences (Microbiology, Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology), 10 ECTS credits. The courses Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness I and II integrate Nursing, 27,5 ECTS credits, Medical Sciences (Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology), 15 ECTS credits, and Social- and Behavioural Sciences (Pedagogy), 2,5 ECTS credits. The courses Nursing in relation to complex illness I and II integrate Nursing, 15 ECTS credits, Medical Sciences (Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology), 15 ECTS credits, and Social- and Behavioural Sciences (Pedagogy, Psychology), 5,5 ECTS credits. In addition to the course Scientific methods in nursing, 7,5 ECTS credits, another 7,5 ECTS credits of Scientific methods in nursing are

¹ Progression key area: G1N basic level, secondary education entrance qualification, G1F basic level, less than 60 basic level ECTS credits as entrance qualification, G2E basic level, minimum 60 ECTS credits as entrance qualification including a degree thesis, G2F basic level, minimum 60 basic level ECTS credits as entrance qualification.

integrated into the courses Nursing from a health perspective, Fundamentals of nursing and Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness (appendix 1).

Examination

The examination regards evaluation and grading of the student's achievements of learning goals. Different forms of examinations are used to judge knowledge, skills and professional- and scientific approaches. The final part of the programme comprises a degree thesis in nursing and a National Clinical Final Examination. Examination is stated clearly in each syllabus.

Degree

Degree as vocational qualification:

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Degree as Bachelor Degree:

Bachelor of Science. Major: Nursing Science

Credit for previous course

A student has the right to request credit for previous studies at a Swedish university or university college, or for studies at a university or university college abroad. The examiner makes decision of credit for part of a course. The chief of staff at the Office for Student Services makes decision of credit for a full course or general ECTS credits.

General information

Attendance

One weeks full-time studies is equivalent to 1,5 ECTS credits. The relation between scheduled classes and individual studies varies according to course content and jointly comprise full-time studies. Parts of the study programme require compulsory attendance, as stated in the course syllabus.

Promotion to higher classes, courses and course units

The content of each course is based on knowledge obtain at previous levels in the programme. In order to be accepted for promotion to the next level of the programme there are specific qualification requirements, regulated in each syllabus. In order to commence studies containing clinical field studies, the student must have passed the methodological item in the previous course. These items are clearly stated in each course syllabus.

Clinical field studies

Clinical field studies can take place at any of the health-care institutions in the county of Värmland, which might mean an increased cost for the student.

New examination

A student who has failed to pass an examination at the regular examination date has the opportunity to be tried again at two scheduled occasions. At the second re-examination the student has a right to request a new examiner. Additional re-examination opportunities are given in connection with the next time the course is given. Re-examination to attain a better grade is not allowed.

A student who fails to pass the clinical field studies has the opportunity to be re-assessed (on two occasions), as soon as the organisation can provide this possibility.

Interruption of studies and termination of studies

Students who wish to terminate or interrupt their studies must notify the administration in written, on a specific paper form.

Regulations for education

Regulations for basic education and advanced education at the Karlstad University regulate obligations and rights of students and employees.

Student Expulsion procedures

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. (Higher Education Act Ch 4, 6§, SFS 1992:1434, Regulations of Student Expulsion from higher education SFS 1987:915).

Appendix 1.

Distribution of ECTS credits (cr.) in the courses of the Study Programme for Nursing

Course	Nursing Science (major field) (cr.)	Medical Science (cr.)	Social- and Behavioural Sciences (cr.)	ECTS credits/ Course (cr.)	Progression key area³⁾
Nursing from a health perspective ¹⁾	13	10	7	30	G1N
Fundamentals of nursing ¹⁾	20	10	-	30	G1N ²⁾
Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness I ¹⁾	18	9,5	2,5	30	G1F
Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness II ¹⁾	9,5	5,5		15	G1F
Elective course	-	-	-	7.5	
Elective course	-	-	-	7.5	
Nursing in relation to complex illness I	11	9	2,5	22.5	G2F
Scientific methods in nursing	7,5	-	-	7.5	G2F
Degree thesis in nursing	15	-	-	15	G2E
Nursing in relation to complex illness II	6	6	3	15	G2F
Total ECTS credits	100	50	15	180	

1) These courses contain scientific nursing methods, comprising 7,5 ECTS credits.

2) Admission requirement: Nursing in relation to a health perspective 30 ECTS credits.

3) Progression key area:

G1N basic level, secondary education entrance qualification.

G1F basic level, less than 60 basic level ECTS credits as entrance qualification.

G2E basic level, minimum 60 ECTS credits as entrance qualification including a degree thesis.

G2F basic level, minimum 60 basic level ECTS credits as entrance qualification.

Overview of the Nursing Programme's course structure 180 ECTS credits

Nursing Science (100 ECTS credits, major field), Medical Science (50 ECTS credits) and Social- and Behavioural Sciences (15 ECTS credits)

First semester		Second semester	
Nursing from a health perspective, 30 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 12 ECTS credits incl. Clinical trainee fieldwork 1.5 ECTS credits		Fundamentals of Nursing, 30 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 18 ECTS credits, incl. Clinical trainee fieldwork 6 ECTS credits	
Third semester		Fourth semester	
Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness I, 30 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 20 ECTS credits incl. Clinical field studies 15 ECTS credits		Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness II, 15 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 10 ECTS credits incl. Clinical field studies 7.5 ECTS credits	Elective course 7.5 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 5 ECTS credits
			Elective course, 7.5 ECTS credits
Fifth semester		Sixth semester	
Nursing in relation to complex illness I, 22.5 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 15 ECTS credits incl. Clinical field studies 9 ECTS credits	Scientific methods in nursing, 7.5 ECTS credits	Degree thesis in nursing, 15 ECTS credits	Nursing in relation to complex illness II, 15 ECTS credits Comprising Clinical Studies 10 ECTS credits incl. Clinical field studies 9 ECTS credits