



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Nursing Science

Syllabus

The Professional Function of Specialist Nursing in Intensive Care

Course Code:	OMA512
Course Title:	The Professional Function of Specialist Nursing in Intensive Care <i>Intensivvårdssjuksköterskans profession</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2022-01-26, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2022 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Nursing licence issued by the National Board of Health and Welfare. Nursing degree of at least 180 ECTS credits (including a degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits) or a Bachelor degree in nursing (including a degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits), plus at least 12 months full-time work experience as a licensed nurse, plus upper secondary level Swedish 3 or Swedish as a second language 3 and English 6, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- describe the profession of the specialist nurse in intensive care,
- identify and compare different science paradigms,
- identify and reflect on ethical problems and considerations in research,

- identify need of and give reasons for nursing interventions and medical examinations and treatment of critically ill patients of different ages in intensive care,
- identify need of and give reasons for nursing interventions for patients in need of respiratory assistance,
- give an account of principles of nutrition and fluid therapy of adult patients in intensive care,
- describe and evaluate qualitative methods with regard to validity and credibility,
- describe and evaluate quantitative methods with regard to validity and reliability,
- give reasons for intervention in relation to triage, care of trauma patients at the scene of accident and in intensive care,
- give advanced CPR according to the CPR council's guidelines, and
- describe the intensive care nurse's responsibility for and handling of medical-technical equipment.

Content

Nursing, 7 ECTS cr, and medical science, 8 ECTS cr, are integrated.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, field studies, simulation, assignments and follow-up seminars. Students study individually and in groups and on-campus instruction is provided. The course is partly net-based using different types of information and communication technologies. All instruction is based on research and evidence-based knowledge in the field.

The profession of the intensive care nurse is discussed in-depth in terms of professional skills and approach and the development of the profession. Students interview active intensive care nurses using qualitative interview methods. Ethical problems and considerations relevant to nursing research are treated. Theory of science is studied with an emphasis on differences and similarities between science paradigms in relation to the intensive care research field.

Complex medical states in adult intensive care patients are problematised, including pathophysiology, assessment, and nursing and medical interventions. Special attention is given to the problems of respiration and fluid balance as well as nutrition problems. The UN child convention is studied along with basic principles of child intensive care.

Qualitative and quantitative research methods are analysed in terms of the purpose, design, data collection and analytical methods of different studies. Concepts such as reliability, validity, and trustworthiness are analysed.

Traumatology, the organisation of health service, and action plans at major accidents and disasters are discussed, as well as triage, crisis and support in crisis, and domestic violence from an intensive care perspective. CPR is practised in a simulation setting. The responsibility of the intensive care nurse for handling medical-technical apparatus is problematised in terms of various directives.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an individual written exam, take-home exam, seminar performance and advanced CPR on an adult in a simulated setting. Absence from seminars is compensated by a written task.

Supplementary examination of the take-home exam is permitted if the result is close to the requirements for a Pass grade (only small revisions required). Additional material must be submitted within six days of notification. Only the additional material asked for by the

teacher will be assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria, and if it does not reach the minimum level for a Pass, a grade of Fail will be reported.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Required course for the Nursing Programme, specialisation in intensive care.