



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 2023-04-27, and is valid from the Spring semester 2024 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Nursing licence issued by the National Board of Health and Welfare, a 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 A, 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 reflect on ethical problems and considerations in nursing research,
- identify and apply selected quantitative methods in nursing research, and assess them with

regard to credibility,

- identify need of and give reasons for nursing interventions and medical examinations and treatment of critically ill patients of different ages in intensive care, with and without respiratory assistance,
- give an account of principles of nutrition and fluid therapy of adult patients in intensive care,
- explain the relation of different science paradigms to research questions and problems, and their significance for selecting methods for research in nursing,
- identify and apply selected quantitative methods in nursing research, and assess them with regard to validity and reliability,
- identify different methods for literature study in nursing research, and assess them with regard to credibility,
- 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 guidelines of the CPR council, and
- describe the intensive care nurse's responsibility for and handling of medical-technical equipment.

Content

The course integrates Nursing (7 ECTS cr) and Medical Science (8 ECTS cr).

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. The course covers research methodology in relation to the professional role of the specialist nurse in intensive care.

The most common qualitative methods are studied in terms of similarities and differences, strengths and weaknesses, as well as credibility, and in-depth study of different data collection methods used in qualitative research is included. Students interview active intensive care nurses using qualitative interview methods, and analyse the results in order to learn about their professional skills and approach, as well as the development of the profession. Ethical problems and considerations relevant to nursing research are treated. Theory of science, science paradigms, and methodology are studied in relation to research questions, research problems, and research design, specifically for the field of intensive care research.

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

Common assessment instruments in intensive care are analysed through descriptive and analytical statistics. The course includes in-depth study of quantitative research design, experiment and other, intervention and implementation research in relation to selection, data collection, and analysis, as well as reliability and validity, and the most common risks that may result in decreased reliability and validity. The most common methods for literature study are covered, including the analysis and compilation of research results from the perspective of intensive care.

Care of trauma patients is studied with an emphasis on traumatic brain and thorax injuries. The organisation of health services in case of major accidents and disasters is discussed, as well as triage, crisis, and support in crisis, and domestic violence from an intensive care perspective. Advanced CPR is practised in a simulation setting. The responsibility of the intensive care nurse for handling medical-technical apparatus is discussed.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an individual written exam, mandatory seminars, a take-home exam discussed in a seminar, 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 Specialist Nursing programme: Intensive care.