



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Nursing Science

Syllabus

The responsibility and competence of the operating theatre nurse in perioperative care

Course Code:	OMA621
Course Title:	The responsibility and competence of the operating theatre nurse in perioperative care <i>Operationssjuksköterskans ansvar och kompetens inom perioperativ vård</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 2023-05-10, and is valid from the Spring semester 2024 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Nursing licence issued by the National Board of Health and Welfare, plus 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 registered 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:

Knowledge and understanding

1. describe the scientific basis of perioperative care and relate it to current research,
2. give an account of the professional development of the operating theatre nurse in history as significant for responsibility and competence in the field of perioperative care today,
3. give an account of the responsibility and function of the operating theatre nurse in perioperative care and refer to current guidelines,
4. give an account of the significance of knowledge regarding microbiology and hygiene in relation to the competence and responsibility of the operating theatre nurse for aseptics and measures to prevent contagion and complications in perioperative care,
5. give an account of basic knowledge of topographical anatomy,
6. explain the handling of medico-technical equipment used to ensure the patient's perioperative care,
7. explain the relation of different scientific paradigms to research questions and problems, and their significance for methodological choices in nursing research,
8. identify and reflect upon problems and considerations related to research ethics,
9. identify and apply selected qualitative methods in nursing research and assess them in terms of credibility,
10. identify and apply selected quantitative methods in nursing research and assess them in terms of validity and reliability, and
11. identify different methods for literature study in nursing research and assess them in terms of credibility.

Competence and skills

12. reflect upon diversity, ethical stance, and dignity in relation to perioperative care,
13. use basic topographical anatomy to plan care in relation to specific surgical techniques,
14. apply principles of aseptics and hygiene to prevent postoperative infection and spread of infection,
15. plan and carry out preoperative skin disinfection and sterile draping with regard to a specific surgical technique and the patient's need of care, and
16. identify risks related to the handling of medico-technical equipment, with support from current guidelines.

Judgement and approach

17. reflect upon and justify an aseptic approach in relation to preparation, implementation surgery, and settlement postoperatively, and
18. reflect upon a professional approach to patients, next-of-kin, and colleagues in perioperative care.

Content

Nursing (7.5 ECTS) and Medical Science (7.5 ECTS) are integrated in the course.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, independent literature study, a group assignment including a follow-up seminar, field studies, and 4 weeks of clinical placement (VFU). This is a full-time distance course which includes individual study, group study, and a few meetings on campus. The course includes the equivalent of 6 ECTS cr focused on scientific method related to perioperative care.

The course includes introductory lectures in perioperative care and perioperative nursing theory, microbiology and hygiene, topographical anatomy and qualitative/quantitative method. The historical and professional development of the operating theatre nurse is studied through systematic search for and study of scientific literature in perioperative care. Field studies include qualitative interviews with working operating theatre nurses, focused on their responsibility and function. Students reflect upon the described scientific approach and analyse the collected data using qualitative method. In relation to quantitative method, students reflect upon data collection and analytical methods, and are expected to be able to

interpret results and examine them critically. For both qualitative and quantitative method, students are expected to assume a critical approach, be able to discuss strengths and weaknesses, and consider aspects of research ethics.

Diversity, ethics, and dignity are discussed in relation to various situations in perioperative care for students to develop an ethical approach. Students practice skills in aseptic techniques, donning a sterile gown and gloves, preoperative skin disinfection and sterile draping in accordance with current hygiene principles. In-depth study of topographical anatomy from the perspective of the operating theatre nurse is carried out through follow-up study assignments. With support from theory, students study topographical anatomy and surgical techniques and plan and monitor the positioning of the patient on the surgical table. Students also practice skills in handling medical technology safely.

During the clinical placement, students develop further skills in course components which integrate theory and practice together with their main supervisor and supervising specialist nurse, and enhance their own professional development, approach, and independence related to the professional function of the operating theatre nurse. During the clinical placement, students are also expected to reflect upon and demonstrate an understanding of what it means to respect the integrity and autonomy of patients and colleagues, and assume a professional approach.

One of the grades Pass (G) or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the clinical placement.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on:

- A take-home exam, completed in groups and discussed in a follow-up seminar
- An individual written exam
- A seminar
- Examination of performance during the clinical placement (VFU)

The examiner may decide that a student who is very close to a passing grade can complete a supplementary assignment to receive a passing grade for a specific examination. Additional examination material must be submitted within six days of notification. The supplementary assignment only is then assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria, and if it is insufficient, a grade of Fail (U) will be given.

Students who have received a grade of Fail (U) for the clinical placement will be offered two new assessment opportunities as soon as this can be organised.

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 Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) 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.

The course is an mandatory course in the Specialist Nursing programme: Theatre Care.

The clinical placement may incur extra costs.

A student who, in the examiner's judgement, will fail to obtain a Pass grade for the practical placement component on the grounds of grave and unprofessional skills and conduct that may cause injury may be required to immediately discontinue the practical training. 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 (the Higher Education Act Ch. 4, sect. 6, SFS 1992: 1434, and Regulations of Student Expulsion from Higher Education SFS 2007: 989).