



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
Operationssjuksköterskans ansvar och kompetens inom perioperativ vård

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:

OMA (Nursing Science)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2025-06-04, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 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 upper secondary level Swedish level 3 or Swedish as a second language level 3 and English level 2, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

1. give an account of the significance of microbiology and hygiene in relation to the perioperative nurse's competence and responsibility for asepsis and infection and complication prevention in perioperative care,
2. demonstrate basic knowledge of topographic anatomy,
3. describe the handling of medical-technical equipment to ensure safe perioperative care,
4. explain the relationship between scientific paradigms and research questions and problems, and their relevance for choosing research methods in nursing science,
5. identify and reflect on ethical issues and considerations in nursing research,
6. identify and apply selected qualitative methods in nursing research and evaluate their credibility,
7. identify and apply selected quantitative methods in nursing research and evaluate reliability and validity,
8. identify different methods for conducting literature reviews in nursing research and assess their credibility. and
9. identify opportunities for implementing research and quality improvement initiatives in nursing practice.

Competence and skills

10. plan for surgical techniques based on fundamental topographic anatomy,
11. apply aseptic and hygienic principles to prevent postoperative infections and the spread of pathogens,
12. plan and apply preoperative skin disinfection and sterile draping according to the surgical technique and the patient's nursing care needs, and
13. identify risks associated with the handling of medical-technical equipment, with reference to relevant regulatory documents.

Judgement and approach

14. reflect upon and justify aseptic practices in the preparation, implementation, and conclusion of surgical procedures, and
15. reflect upon professional conduct toward patients, next of kin, and colleagues in perioperative care.

Content

Nursing (7.5 ECTS cr) and Medical Science (7.5 ECTS cr) are integrated in the course, including clinical practice (VFU, 6 ECTS cr, 32 hours per week).

Instruction is in the form of introductory and advanced lectures, seminars, skills training, field studies, individual assignments, group work, and surgical technique training. This is a hybrid course, which means that instruction and examinations take place during on-campus sessions at Karlstad University, at local group meetings in the students home region, and through distance learning.

Perioperative Care:

- Microbiology and hygiene
- Topographic anatomy
- Patient positioning
- Medical technology
- Surgical methodology
- Field studies
- The historical and professional development of the perioperative nurse within perioperative care

- The competencies and responsibilities of the perioperative nurse
- Diversity and dignity in perioperative care
- Ethical approaches within perioperative care

Skills training:

- Patient positioning
- Aseptic technique
- Preoperative hand disinfection
- Donning of sterile gown and gloves
- Preoperative skin disinfection
- Sterile draping
- Surgical technique skills

Scientific methodology:

- Quantitative methods
- Qualitative methods
- Methods for literature reviews
- Research ethics

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is continuous, diverse, and based on

- a written assignment completed in groups and discussed in a follow-up seminar,
- an individual written assignment and a seminar.

Four weeks of clinical placement (VFU, 32 hours per week) and a practical examination are also included.

Students who have failed to earn a Pass grade for the clinical placement (VFU) are offered a second opportunity as soon as circumstances permit.

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).