



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Nursing Science

Syllabus

Advanced intensive care

Course Code:	OMAA14
Course Title:	Advanced intensive care <i>Avancerad intensivvård</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1F)

Major Field of Study:
OMA (Nursing Science)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2025-06-16, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Registered for the Specialist Nursing programme with a specialisation in intensive care, 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. analyse and evaluate principles of patient-safe nursing care and conduct risk assessments related to the use of medical-technical equipment,
2. identify opportunities for implementing research and improvement work in nursing, and
3. give an account of preparedness and organisation in the context of accidents and

disasters.

Competence and skills

4. independently assess and prioritise nursing needs in patients with failure of vital functions,
5. independently plan, perform, evaluate, and document advanced nursing care and medical interventions from a person-centred perspective,
6. independently lead the care team and coordinate nursing and medical measures,
7. independently initiate and carry out examinations and medical interventions in a patient-safe manner,
8. independently administer, monitor, and evaluate the effects of medications,
9. independently manage medical-technical equipment and digital tools in a patient-safe manner,
10. participate in and independently provide end-of-life nursing care,
11. independently assess and address the informational, educational, and support needs of patients and their next of kin, from a person-centred perspective, and
12. demonstrate situational awareness in both expected and unexpected situations.

Judgement and approach

13. demonstrate a professional approach toward patients, their next of kin, and colleagues, and
14. demonstrate the ability to identify their own personal strengths and limitations and to seek additional knowledge when necessary.

Content

The course integrates Nursing (6 ECTS cr) and Medical Science (9 ECTS cr).

This is a hybrid course, alternating between on-campus sessions and distance learning.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, clinical placement (VFU), assignments, and seminars.

Studies are conducted both individually and in groups. The course integrates scientific theory and method in relation to the professional practice of the intensive care nurse.

The course covers the following:

- Patient safety based on medical technology
- Quality and improvement work
- Methods for implementing improvement work
- Leadership and situational awareness
- Sustainable development
- Disaster preparedness in healthcare

During the clinical placement (VFU), students develop skills in the following areas:

- Advanced assessment of patients with organ system failure
- Independent performance of nursing and medical interventions
- End-of-life nursing care in the context of intensive care
- Patient-centred leadership and situational awareness

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on a take-home exam completed in pairs and discussed in a seminar, VFU, an individual clinical examination, and active participation in the mandatory course components: a clinical placement (VFU, 32 hours per week) and seminars.

Learning outcomes 4-14 are assessed during the clinical placement.

Students who have not passed their clinical placement (VFU) are offered reassessment on one occasion. Examinations that require the completion of the clinical placement will, as far as possible, be offered the next time that the course is given, but no later than within one year.

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.

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.

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

Required course for the Specialist Nursing programme: Intensive care.