



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

Programme Study Plan

Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care

Programme Code:	VASAM
Programme Title:	Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care
ECTS credits:	60 ECTS credits
Programme Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Health, Sciences and Technology on 2016-12-09 and is effective from the autumn semester of 2017
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree Level:	Master's
Degree Type:	Professional The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Master's degree in nursing science
Prerequisites	Nursing licence issued by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare
	Specific entry requirements: A degree in nursing (180 ECTS cr.), including a degree project of at least 15 ECTS cr., a Bachelor's degree in nursing, or equivalent. Professional experience in nursing corresponding to at least 12 months fulltime. Upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish as a second language B and English A.

General Information

The programme leads to a professional qualification as specialist prehospital emergency care nurse and also fulfils the requirements of a general one-year Master's degree in nursing science.

Working as a prehospital nurse requires high ability to work independently and to handle complex nursing situations in the field of prehospital emergency care. It requires capacity for

independence of action and judgement in combination with the ability to assess one's own capacities and limitations as well as those of the patients.

It also requires the ability to assess circumstances on the basis of different situational aspects. A specialist nurse must be able to follow, implement and contribute to research and development and to initiate and lead improvement projects.

The profession also involves making adequate judgements, priorities and follow-ups to ensure that correct measures are taken in order to save lives and to prevent complications in various prehospital situations, such as in the home, on the site of the accident, and in the ambulance. Prehospital nurses must be ready to act professionally in multicultural environments and in response to major accidents and disasters. Prehospital nurses must act with the safety and security of the patients in mind, respecting their integrity and right to make their own decisions. Adequate prehospital nursing requires medical as well as nursing knowledge and skills.

The specialist competence of prehospital nurses qualifies them to take a leading role in managing and planning the care given; it also qualifies them to collaborate with members of other professions and to supervise students. Prehospital nurses are also expected to be able to follow, use and participate in research and development work and to initiate and head development work.

Programme Aims

The length, content and degree level of the study programme are regulated by the following legislation, ensuring that graduates meet the programme requirements, qualification requirements for postgraduate studies, and EU requirements for nurses.

In accordance with Ch. 1 § 9 of the Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434), Master-level studies should largely build on knowledge acquired at undergraduate level or the equivalent. Master-level students are expected to deepen the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired at undergraduate level and in addition to fulfilling bachelor-level objectives, students are also expected to

- further develop their ability to independently integrate and implement theoretical knowledge,
- develop their ability to deal with complex phenomena, questions and situations, and
- develop their future career prospects, requiring the ability to work independently and to contribute to research and development work.

The Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100) lists the national aims and objectives common to all educational programmes for specialist nurses.

Students shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work as a specialist nurse in the following areas.

Knowledge and understanding

For all specialist nursing qualifications students should:

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and insight into current research and development work as well as into the links between research and proven experience and the significance of these links for professional practice, and
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of the planning, management and coordination of health care measures.

Competence and skills

For all specialist nursing qualifications students should:

- demonstrate specialised skills in identifying health care needs and drawing up care programmes independently and in collaboration with the patient and those close to them,
- demonstrate the ability to direct and evaluate health care interventions,
- demonstrate specialised skills in initiating, undertaking and evaluating health promotion and preventive interventions,
- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and also to analyse, assess and deal with complex issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to participate in or independently undertake examinations and treatment, including palliative care, and
- demonstrate the capacity to act as a nursing instructor.

Judgement and approach

For all specialist nursing qualifications students should:

- demonstrate self-awareness and the capacity for empathy,
- demonstrate the ability to assess interventions using a holistic approach to individuals informed by the relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects and taking particular account of human rights,
- demonstrate the ability to adopt a professional approach to patients and those close to them, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and undertake ongoing development of their skills.

For a specialist nursing qualification in *prehospital emergency care* students should also:

- demonstrate ability to independently assess the sick or injured person's somatic and mental status and immediate needs, and demonstrate ability to take the necessary measures to help patients in very different situations and circumstances, and
- demonstrate ability to apply their specialist knowledge in major accidents and disasters.

In addition to the national objectives listed above, the specialist nursing programme at Karlstad University conforms to the national objectives which regulate general Master's degrees (SFS 1992:100) as well as the laws and statutes which regulate specialist prehospital nursing.

Programme Structure

The programme is offered part-time with a fulltime option in connection with the clinical placement (15 ECTS cr.) and the degree project (15 ECTS cr.). It is offered in conjunction with a number of county council hospitals that may also actively be involved in the programme. Students have the opportunity to participate in various study groups, which often include a professional field mentor and main supervisor. Students are given the opportunity to develop their ability to reflect on their professional role and to approach their work as prehospital emergency care nurses with an increased level of awareness of what this work entails. This distance learning programme is offered using blended learning, a mixture of campus-based and web-based distance learning.

The forms of instruction vary and include independent study, group work, lectures, simulation, supervision and seminars. Students are responsible for their own learning processes and are expected to be active and disciplined. The role of lecturers is to supervise, support and guide students in their pursuit of knowledge. The programme integrates theoretical and practical knowledge to optimise the acquisition of professional competence based on science and well-founded experience. The courses gradually become more advanced and are continuously linked

to prehospital nursing in practice. Practical group exercises and practical examination with patient simulator are carried out during the theoretical courses.

The practical placement is based on course learning outcomes. The planning and assessment of the placement take place in consultation between the student, a professional field mentor, the main supervisor and the instructor with the purpose of gradually identifying needs for knowledge and gradually increasing knowledge. Students are expected to develop and reinforce their professional competence. Students are assigned a practical placement, primarily in one of the county council hospitals that participate in the programme, or at any other county council provided that the supervision model can be implemented and an agreement has been reached between the parties. Students may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses in connection with the placement period.

Students are encouraged to take part in studies of other cultures and their health care systems in the hope of promoting cross-national and cross-cultural knowledge and understanding. Students are offered the opportunity to participate in international studies and activities at the university and they may apply to take certain courses or parts of courses abroad.

Programme Curriculum

The Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care comprises 60 ECTS credits. Students take six courses in prehospital nursing related to prehospital emergency care and including both theoretical and practical course components.

The main field is nursing science and the programme also includes medical science. Each course covers both these subject areas, thereby encouraging students to take a holistic perspective. Each course also incorporates research method corresponding to 7.5 ECTS credits. The different course components are integrated during a semester to create a holistic focus on nursing and patients.

For the postgraduate diploma in specialist nursing and the Master of Science degree to be awarded, students must complete and submit a degree project comprising 15 ECTS credits in the main field of nursing science with a focus on prehospital emergency care.

The practical placement comprises 8 weeks of full-time practice, one week of which in anaesthetics. The training includes clinical studies in a medico-technical unit and with a patient simulator as well as field studies.

During the course of the programme, students will broaden and deepen previously acquired knowledge in the field of nursing science combined with clinical medicine, with a special emphasis on prehospital emergency care.

The programme covers the following subject areas:

- Nursing Science: Prehospital Nursing (30 ECTS cr.)
- Medical Science: Prehospital Emergency Care (30 ECTS cr.)

Nursing science: Prehospital Nursing

Nursing Science is the main subject on this programme. It is also the foundation for all prehospital emergency care nursing. Prehospital nurses care for patients on site, in the ambulance and other prehospital transportation. As a scientific discipline, nursing has a patient-oriented and clinically-based character. Nursing research provides practitioners with evidence-based knowledge. Central concepts in nursing science are the human being, health, the environment and care implementation. Nursing science is founded in a holistic view of human beings. The

aim is to preserve health and wellbeing, prevent ill health and disease, maintain and restore health in accordance with the needs of the individual, reduce suffering and enable patients to die with dignity. The relationship between nurse, patient, and next-of-kin is central to nursing and it is characterised by a holistic, ethical and scientific approach.

The profession of the prehospital emergency nurse includes assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care methods in relation to the individual's experiences of health and ill health.

Medical science: Prehospital Emergency Care

Prehospital emergency care includes the immediate medical measures that the nurse takes outside the hospital. This entails a great responsibility and calls for good ability to make decisions in complex situations that require safety and security awareness and threats and risk assessment. Medical Science components have a focus on providing further knowledge in the following areas: acute and chronic illnesses; accident and emergency nursing with an emphasis on respiration, cardiology, neurology, endocrinology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, obstetrics and paediatrics. Rescue and disaster medicine with an emphasis on traumatology and triage is also included.

Programme courses

The programme comprises the following courses:

- Prehospital emergency assessment and care (7.5 ECTS cr.)
- Prehospital emergency care (7.5 ECTS cr.)
- Prehospital trauma and care (9 ECTS cr.)
- Prehospital triage and management (6 ECTS cr.)
- Prehospital nursing in theory and practice (15 ECTS cr.)
- Degree project: Prehospital Emergency Care (15 ECTS cr.)

See the appendix for the course structure in the programme.

Degree Awarded

Professional degree awarded:

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing: Prehospital Emergency Care

General degree awarded:

Master of Science (60 ECTS cr.). Major: Nursing Science

Transfer of Credits

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad. Decisions are made in accordance with current regulations.

Additional Information

Attendance

A week's fulltime study is the equivalent of 1.5 ECTS credits. Scheduled teaching and independent study vary in extent, depending on course content. Attendance is mandatory for some course components (examinations), as specified in the course syllabi.

Moving up

In order to move up to the next level, students must meet any additional admission requirements specified in the course syllabus.

Re-examinations

Students who do not pass a regular examination are offered at least two re-examination opportunities within one year of the original examination. At the second re-examination students have the right to be assessed by another examiner. Students may not undertake re-examinations in order to improve a pass grade. Students not awarded a passing grade for practical placements have the opportunity to be re-assessed, as soon as organisationally possible. There can be a limitation of opportunities for re-assessment which is regulated in the course syllabi.

Leave from or termination of studies

Students who wish to take leave from or terminate their studies have to notify the study and careers counsellor, using the available form.

Regulations for master-level education

The rights and obligations of students and staff are stipulated in the current regulations for first and second level education at Karlstad University.

Student expulsion procedures

An examiner may be forced to terminate an ongoing practical placement if a student acts highly ineptly at the workplace and thereby risks causing injuries. A student who suffers from mental disorder, abuses alcohol or drugs, or has been guilty of a serious offence endangering others or valuable property may also be expelled until further notice. See the course syllabi. In such a case, the Vice-Chancellor files a complaint to the Higher Education Expulsions Board, which investigates the matter and takes a decision. A decision of expulsion shall always entail that the student must discontinue the education until further notice. The Higher Education Expulsions Board is responsible for all Swedish higher education institutions. (Higher Education Act Ch. 4 § 6, SFS 1992:1434; Ordinance on the Expulsion of Students from Higher Education, SFS 1987:915.)

Programme Overview: Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care (60 ECTS cr., part-time studies)

The programme combines Nursing Science 30 ECTS credits (main field of study) and Medical Science (30 ECTS cr.). Semester 1 and 2 (equivalent to 30 ECTS cr.) comprise part-time studies. Thereafter students may choose to study part-time or fulltime.

Semester 1 (part-time)	Semester 2 (part-time)
Course: Prehospital emergency assessment and care (7.5 ECTS cr.)	Course: Prehospital trauma and care (9 ECTS cr.)
Course: Prehospital emergency care (7.5 ECTS cr.)	Course: Prehospital triage and management (6 ECTS cr.)

Part-time studies, semester 3 and 4

Semester 3 (part-time)	Semester 4 (part-time)
Course: Prehospital nursing in theory and practice (15 ECTS cr.) (20 weeks part-time) <i>The course continues for 4 weeks into semester 4, VFU: 16 weeks part-time</i>	
Course: Degree project: Prehospital Emergency Care (15 ECTS cr.) (autumn term: 4 weeks of 20 weeks part-time) (spring term: 16 weeks of 20 weeks part-time)	

Fulltime studies, semester 3

Semester 3 (fulltime)
Course: Prehospital nursing in theory and practice (15 ECTS cr.) <i>VFU: 8 weeks fulltime</i>
Course: Degree project: Prehospital Emergency Care (15 ECTS cr.) <i>10 weeks fulltime</i>

VFU= Practical placement