



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

Programme Syllabus

Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care

Programme Code:	VASAM
Programme Title:	Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care
	Specialistsjuksköterska med inriktning mot ambulanssjukvård
Credits:	60
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology, 3 February 2022, effective from the autumn semester of 2022, Rev. 15 March 2023.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish and English
Education Cycle:	Second
Degree Type:	Professional The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Master (60 credits)
Degree Title:	Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing – Prehospital Emergency Care <i>Specialistsjuksköterskeexamen med inriktning mot ambulanssjukvård</i> Degree of Master of Science (60 credits). Main field of study: Nursing Science. <i>Filosofie magisterexamen. Huvudområde: Omvårdnad.</i>
Entry Requirements:	Nursing licence issued by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare. A Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (180 credits), including a degree project of 15 credits, a Degree of Bachelor in Nursing (including a degree project of 15 credits), or equivalent qualifications.

Professional experience in nursing corresponding to 12 months of full-time work. Swedish 3 or Swedish as a second language 3, and English 6/A. Equivalence assessment can be made.

Introduction

The study programme is concluded with a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing - Prehospital Emergency Care and also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Master (60 credits).

Work as a specialist nurse requires a high degree of autonomy and ability to handle complex nursing situations in the specialist field. It requires responsiveness and the capacity to take autonomous action in combination with the ability to assess one's own capacities and limitations as well as those of the patients.

Responsiveness includes the ability to assess circumstances on the basis of different contextual aspects. A specialist nurse must be able to follow, implement, and contribute to research and development and to initiate and lead development 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 possess the responsiveness required to act professionally in different cultural environments and in extraordinary situations, such as accidents and disasters. In addition, prehospital nurses must act with the safety and security of the patients in mind, always taking the context into account and respecting the individual's integrity and right to make their own decisions. Adequate prehospital nursing requires knowledge and skills in nursing science as well as medicine.

The specialist competence of prehospital nurses qualifies them for the important role of leading and planning the care given. It also qualifies them to collaborate with members of other professions and to supervise students. A specialist nurse must also be able to follow, implement, and contribute to research and development and to initiate and lead improvement projects.

Programme Outcomes

The content, duration and degree level of the study programme are regulated by the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), ensuring that graduates meet the programme requirements, qualification requirements for postgraduate studies, and EU requirements.

Pursuant to the Higher Education Act Chap. 1 Sect. 9 (SFS 1992:1434), second-cycle courses and study programmes shall be based fundamentally on the knowledge acquired by students during first-cycle courses and study programmes, or its equivalent. Second-cycle courses and study programmes shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to first-cycle courses and study programmes, and in addition to the requirements for first-cycle courses and study programmes shall:

- further develop the ability of students to integrate and make autonomous use of their knowledge,
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable autonomy, or for research and development work.

The Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100) specifies the national learning outcomes for a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing. The following national learning outcomes apply for all postgraduate diplomas in specialist nursing.

For a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work autonomously as a specialist nurse.

Knowledge and understanding

For a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student shall, in the specific specialisation,

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and insight into current research and development work as well as 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 a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student shall, in the specific specialisation,

- demonstrate specialised skills in identifying health care needs and drawing up care programmes autonomously 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 undertake autonomously examinations and treatment, including palliative care, and
- demonstrate the capacity to act as a nursing instructor.

Judgement and approach

For a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student shall, in the specific specialisation,

- 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 his or her skills.

For a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing: *Prehospital Emergency Care* the student shall also

- demonstrate the ability to assess the somatic or mental status and immediate needs of sick or injured individuals and also demonstrate the ability to undertake the interventions required for patients in widely differing circumstances, and
- demonstrate the ability to apply his or her specialist knowledge in connection with major accidents and catastrophes.

In addition to the national outcomes listed above, the specialist nursing programme at Karlstad University conforms to the national outcomes which regulate the general Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits) (SFS 1992:100) as well as the laws and statutes which regulate specialist prehospital nursing.

Programme Structure

The studies are offered in close collaboration with the regions concerned, who are actively involved in the study 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 for reflection and to approach their future 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 clinical placement is based on course learning outcomes. The planning and assessment of the placement is a collaborative effort between the student, a professional field mentor, the main supervisor, and the teacher with the purpose of gradually identifying needs for knowledge and gradually increasing knowledge. Students are expected to develop and reinforce their professional competence through clinical placement. Students are assigned clinical placement, primarily within one of the regions that participate in the programme, or at any other region 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.

Internationalisation

Karlstad University wants to promote collaboration and exchange with other universities. Karlstad University has partnerships with many other universities in Sweden and abroad, and has an organisation in place to support students who want to make use of this opportunity. Students are therefore encouraged to complete part of the programme at a university abroad.

Internationalisation via digital tools can be used in order to provide the students with a deeper understanding of the nursing profession in other countries and health in an international perspective.

Programme Curriculum

The study programme Specialist Nursing in Prehospital Emergency Care comprises 60 credits. The study programme comprises six courses related to prehospital emergency care and includes both theoretical and practical course components.

The clinical placement comprises 10 weeks (full-time). The programme also includes clinical studies in a medico-technical unit and with a patient simulator as well as field studies.

In order to create conditions for a holistic perspective in the student's learning, the main field of study, nursing science, is integrated with medical science and learning objectives corresponding to scientific method 7.5 credits. The programme integrates theoretical and practical knowledge to optimise the acquisition of professional competence based on science and well-founded experience. For the Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing and the Degree of Master of Science to be awarded, students must complete and submit an independent project (degree project) comprising 15 credits in the main field of nursing with a focus on prehospital emergency care.

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

The programme covers the following subject areas:

- Nursing Science - Prehospital Nursing, 30 credits.
- Medical Science - Prehospital Emergency Care, 30 credits.

Nursing Science: Prehospital Nursing

Nursing science is the main field of study in this study programme. It is also the foundation of knowledge upon which autonomous prehospital emergency care nursing rests. Prehospital emergency care includes the nurse's 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 based on a holistic view of human beings. The aim is to promote health, 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 relationships between nurse, patient, and next-of-kin is central to nursing and they are 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 great responsibility and calls for a solid 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, geriatrics, and paediatrics. 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 credits
- Prehospital Emergency Care, 7.5 credits
- Prehospital Trauma and Care, 9 credits
- Prehospital Triage and Management, 6 credits
- Prehospital Nursing in Theory and Practice, 15 credits
- Degree Project: Prehospital Emergency Care, 15 credits

Credit Transfer

Students have the right to transfer credits from previously completed university courses in Sweden or abroad, subject to approval according to the current regulations. Students have the right to transfer credits from previously completed university courses in Sweden or abroad, subject to approval according to the current regulations.

Additional Information

Attendance

One week of full-time studies is the equivalent of 1.5 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 to the next level

To be eligible for courses in the study programme, students must meet the specific entry requirements specified in the course syllabi.

Resit examinations

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

Leave from or termination of studies

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

Regulations for second cycle studies

The local regulations for first and second cycle education at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Clinical placement

Karlstad University has an agreement with Region Värmland on guaranteed clinical placements. Clinical placement outside the university agreement is subject to a specific request made by the student to the university. Students may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses in connection with mandatory on-campus meetings or clinical placement.

Student expulsion procedures

A student who suffers from mental disorder, abuses alcohol or drugs, or has committed a serious offence endangering others or valuable property may be expelled until further notice. In such a case, the Vice-Chancellor files a complaint to the Higher Education Expulsions Board, where the matter will be investigated and decided on. A decision of expulsion shall always entail the student's discontinuation of the studies until further notice. The Higher Education Expulsions Board is responsible for all Swedish higher education institutions. (Higher Education Act Chap. 4 Sect. 6, SFS 1992:1434; Ordinance on the Expulsion of Students from Higher Education, SFS 1987:915.)

This programme syllabus will replace the previous version approved 4 February 2021, ref. no: HNT 2021/78.