



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

Programme Study Plan

Specialist Nursing in Primary Health Care

Programme Code:	VASDI
Programme Title:	Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Primary Health Care
Credits:	75 ECTS cr
Programme Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Health, Sciences and Technology on 9 December 2016 and is valid from the autumn semester of 2017
Language of Instruction:	Swedish and English
Degree Level:	Master's
Degree Type:	Professional The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Master's degree
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 15 ECTS cr, a Bachelor's degree in nursing, or equivalent. Professional experience in nursing, corresponding to at least 24 months fulltime. Upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish as a second language B and English A.

General Information

The study programme leads to a professional qualification as specialist primary health care nurse.

Working as specialist nurses demands substantial independence and the ability to handle complex nursing situations in the area of speciality. Primary health care nurses provide health care outside of hospitals, irrespective of the authority responsible. Primary health care services include child health care, district health care centres, school health care, home nursing, residential care and occupational health services. Primary health care nurses may also provide care in nurse led clinics in different areas, including diabetes, incontinence, congestive heart failure or wound care. Accordingly, primary health care nurses need to have broad competence in different types of health care services, as well as the ability to work with patients of all ages and to perform various health care duties, depending on patient needs.

Primary health care nurses have to identify patients' physical, mental, existential, cultural and social needs and assess, plan, provide and evaluate the nursing interventions and medical treatments needed in different cases. Primary health care nurses play a vital organisational role in intra- and inter professional health care teams assigned to patients and their family members. Primary health care nurses also have to inform and supervise nurses and students in their areas of expertise. Primary health care nurses often work in multicultural environments that demand readiness to act and the ability to adapt to different social conditions. Their duties include assessing health risks and providing preventive care. Primary health care nurses have the authority to prescribe certain medication and medical aids and are also knowledgeable about the uses of medical technology. In addition, primary health care nurses are expected to follow, implement and contribute to research and development and to initiate and lead quality improvement initiatives.

Programme Aims

The length, content and degree level of the study programme are regulated by the Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434) and the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), 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) and the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), 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 integrate and implement theoretical knowledge in their work,
- develop their ability to deal with complex situations, questions and phenomena, and
- develop their ability to work independently and 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

- 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

- 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

- 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 specialising in *Primary Health Care*, students shall also:

- demonstrate the ability to assess, plan, undertake and evaluate the interventions required to promote physical, mental and social health and prevent the occurrence of illnesses and their complications independently,
- demonstrate the ability to observe and assess complex care, habilitation and rehabilitation needs in patients, and
- demonstrate the knowledge required to take responsibility for health examinations and vaccinations.

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 2006:1053), as well as the laws and statutes which regulate prehospital nursing.

Programme Structure and Curriculum

The Programme for Specialist Nursing: Primary Health Care comprises 75 ECTS credits, and may be studied fulltime or part-time. The programme is offered as distance education in the form of blended learning, a mixture of campus and web-based distance education.

Students take five courses in primary health care nursing, including both theoretical and practical course components.

The programme comprises the following courses:

Health promotion and preventive care in public health nursing (15 ECTS cr)
Pathology and prescription rights for some pharmaceuticals (15 ECTS cr)
Family, children and adolescent nursing (15 ECTS cr)
Home nursing and advanced home nursing (15 ECTS cr)
Degree project: Primary Health Care (15 ECTS cr)

The appended overview Full- and part time studies shows the courses and structure of the programme.

Course order may vary somewhat, depending on study pace, but the programme always commences with Health promotion and preventive care in public health nursing (15 ECTS cr) and concludes with the degree project.

Main field of study, subject areas and specialisation

The programme mainly consists of the subjects Nursing Science (30 ECTS) and Medical Science (45 ECTS). The subjects are integrated in the courses, thus enabling students to attain a holistic perspective. Research methodology equivalent to 7.5 ECTS is integrated in the first four courses of the programme. For the professional degree in specialist nursing, including the general Master's degree, students have to complete a degree project comprising 15 ECTS credits in nursing with a focus on primary health care nursing.

The programme places much emphasis on a professional attitude, health-promoting nursing, leadership and increased knowledge about nursing, multiculturalism, safe and evidence-based nursing, as well as intra- and interpersonal teamwork. Theoretical and practical components are integrated to further professionalism founded in science and proven experience. Specialisation is based on students' prior knowledge, skills and abilities to integrate knowledge about nursing, health care and treatment professionally. The specialisation further entails increased demands that students are able to relate independently to the complex disease spectrum as regards children, adolescents, adults and the elderly, from the perspectives of nursing, medical science and public health. Course content becomes gradually more complex learning is contextualised to promote students' professional development and self-awareness. The programme concludes with a degree project in which students specialise in a specific area of nursing.

Nursing Science

Nursing as scientific discipline has a patient-oriented and clinical base. Central concepts in nursing science are the patient, health, environment and health care performance. Nursing science is founded on a humanistic view of humans and aims to preserve health and well-being, 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. An essential part of nursing includes maintaining relationships between the nurse, patient and next-of-kin based on holistic, ethical and scientific views. Nursing research provides practitioners with evidence-based knowledge.

Medical Science

The aim is for students to deepen their knowledge of medical science in the areas of ill health in children, adolescents, adults and the elderly, as well as pathology and pharmacology. The course in pathology and prescription rights include the areas of prescription regulations that are required by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare to issue a licence to prescribe medical aids and equipment, as well as certain medical drugs and pharmaceuticals. Upon completion of the programme, primary health care nurses have to carry out and supervise medical examinations and vaccination programmes in their specialisations independently.

Practical Placement

The programme includes 14 weeks of fulltime practical placements. Placements are usually located at the county council/municipalities with which the programme has agreements, but may be located at other councils/municipalities, provided that all concerned parties reach an agreement about providing the supervision required. Students may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses in connection with their practical placements.

Internationalisation

Studies of other cultures and their health care systems are included to increase knowledge about and understanding of other countries and international conditions as well as of students' own country. Students are encouraged to participate in Karlstad University's international initiatives and it is possible to take certain courses or parts of courses abroad.

Assessment

Different examination formats are used to assess students' fulfilment of learning outcomes. Assessed aspects include knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities, as well as professional judgement and attitude. The also programme includes clinical examinations. Examination formats are stipulated in the course syllabi.

Degree Awarded

Professional degree awarded:

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing: Primary Health Care

General degree awarded:

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

Transfer of Credits

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad, or based on professional experience. 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 STRUCTURE: Full- and part-time studies

FULLTIME

Overview: Specialist Nursing in Primary Health Care (75 ECTS cr)

The programme includes Nursing Science, 30 ECTS credits (main field of study) and Medical Science (45 ECTS cr). The practical placement comprises 21 ECTS credits (14 weeks). The programme may comprise fulltime or part-time studies, as per the overview below.

Fulltime: Semester 1, autumn

Course: Health promotion and preventive care in public health nursing (15 ECTS cr); *includes four-week practical placement at a district health centre*

Course: Family, children and adolescent nursing (15 ECTS cr); *includes six-week practical placement in school health care and child health care (3+3 weeks)*

Semester 2, spring

Course: Pathology and prescription rights for some pharmaceuticals (15 ECTS cr)

Course: Home nursing and advanced home nursing (15 ECTS cr); *includes four-week practical placement in home nursing*

Semester 3, autumn

Course: Degree project: Primary Health Care (15 ECTS cr)

PART-TIME (The practical placement component is fulltime)

Overview: Specialist Nursing in Primary Health Care (75 ECTS cr)

The programme includes Nursing Science, 30 ECTS credits (main field of study) and Medical Science (45 ECTS cr). The practical placement comprises 21 ECTS credits (14 weeks). The programme may comprise fulltime or part-time studies.

Semester 1, autumn

Course: Health promotion and preventive care in public health nursing (15 ECTS cr); *includes four-week practical placement at a district health centre*

Semester 2, spring

Course: Pathology and prescription rights for some pharmaceuticals (15 ECTS cr)

Semester 3, autumn

Course: Family, children and adolescent nursing (15 ECTS cr); *includes six-week practical placement in school health care and child health care (3+3 weeks)*

Semester 4, spring

Course: Home nursing and advanced home nursing (15 ECTS cr); *includes four-week practical placement in home nursing*

Semester 5, autumn

Course: Degree project: Primary Health Care (15 ECTS cr)