



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

Programme Syllabus

Specialist Nursing in Intensive Care

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| Programme Code: | VASIN |
| Programme Title: | Specialist Nursing in Intensive Care Specialistsjuksköterska med inriktning mot intensivvård |
| 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 |
| 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 - Intensive Care <i>Specialistsjuksköterska med inriktning mot intensivvård</i> Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) Main field of study: Nursing Science <i>Filosofie masterexamen</i> <i>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

Work as a specialist nurse in intensive care requires a high degree of autonomy and ability to handle complex nursing situations in the specialist field.

The profession as a specialist nurse in intensive care includes the ability to make adequate assessments of the physical and mental condition of patients with multiple diseases, as well as initiating and autonomously performing specific examinations and nursing interventions, including terminal care.

The specialist competence of a nurse in intensive care has an important function in planning and leading nursing work based on a person-centred approach. The specialist nurse in intensive care must also be able to handle ethical dilemmas in connection with serious illness and death, as well as dealing with next-of-kin in a professional manner. In both intra- and interprofessional teams surrounding the patient, the intensive care nurse has a coordinating and leading role where knowledge of informatics is important. The profession also includes supervising students and teaching nursing staff. A specialist nurse in intensive care must also be able to follow, implement, and contribute to research and development work, as well as initiating and leading development projects.

Programme Outcomes

The content, duration 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.

Pursuant to the Higher Education Act Chap. 1 Sect. 9 (SFS 1992:1434, 2006:173), 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, 2006:1053) specifies the national outcomes for a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing. The following 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 - *Intensive Care*, the student shall also demonstrate the ability to observe and assess the functions of all organic systems and the mental condition of patients as well as the ability to initiate and undertake medical interventions autonomously, 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 credits) (SFS 2006:1053) as well as the laws and statutes which regulate specialist nursing in intensive care.

Programme Structure

The programme is offered using blended learning, a mixture of campus-based and web-based distance learning. Both the theoretical and practical part of the programme offer different types of working formats, designed to encourage active learning where the students take personal responsibility, individually and as part of a group, as well as offering students the opportunity to practice teamwork, collaboration, information management and teaching. The theoretical studies and placements are integrated so that they form a cohesive whole, a stimulating process and meaningful learning.

Teaching and the planning, implementation and evaluation thereof, take place in collaboration between the student and the teacher. The courses gradually become more advanced and are continuously linked to nursing in practice. The programme has clear focus on sustainability, both in terms of quality and improvement work, as well as sustainability in relation to economy and nursing environments. Gender equality, human rights, ethics, values, communication and diversity perspectives are emphasised in connection with the student's meetings with patients, next-of-kin and various professional groups.

The clinical placement is based on the intended learning outcomes of the courses. 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. During the clinical placement, the students are expected to develop and advance their professional competence. Students are assigned clinical placements primarily within Värmland County and Örebro County, but may also be placed in another 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

To increase knowledge and understanding of other countries and international conditions and to deepen the understanding of one's own country, the programme includes studies about other cultures and their healthcare. Students are also offered to participate in international activities at Karlstad University. 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.

Studies abroad must be designed in a way that allows the student to fulfil the intended learning outcomes of the programme.

Programme Curriculum

The study programme Specialist Nursing in Intensive Care comprises 60 credits. The programme consists of 5 courses related to intensive care and includes both theoretical and practical course components. The clinical placement comprises 12 weeks (full-time) divided up between the courses Intensive Care in Theory and Practice I and II. In addition to clinical placement, the programme includes clinical studies in a medico-technical unit with a patient simulator, as well as field studies.

The main field of study in the programme is nursing science with a specialisation in intensive care. The programme also includes medical science. The courses of the programme also incorporate scientific method corresponding to 7.5 credits. The two subjects as well as scientific method are integrated in the courses with the aim of encouraging students to take a holistic approach to learning.

For the Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing and a Degree of Master (60 credits) to be awarded, students must complete and submit an independent project (degree project) comprising 15 credits in the main field of nursing science with a specialisation in intensive care.

During the course of the programme, students will broaden and deepen previously acquired knowledge in the main field of nursing science combined with medical science and a specialisation in intensive care.

The programme covers the following subject areas:

- Nursing Science – Intensive Care 30 credits
- Medical Science – Intensive Care 30 credits

Programme courses:

The Professional Function of Specialist Nursing in Intensive Care
Pathophysiology and Pharmacology
Intensive Care in Theory and Practice I
Intensive Care in Theory and Practice II
Degree Project - Intensive Care

Nursing Science – Intensive Care

Nursing is the foundation of knowledge on which the ability for autonomous intensive care nursing rests. Nursing in intensive care includes the nursing activities that the intensive care nurse performs in connection with the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing interventions for a patient with threatening or manifested failure of vital organs. 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 nursing interventions. Nursing science is founded 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 intensive care nurse includes assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating nursing interventions in relation to the individual's experiences of health and ill health.

Medical Science: Intensive Care

Medical science focuses on medical science covering pathology and pharmacology. Hygiene is focused on intensive care patients' susceptibility to infection. Medical technology looks at electrical engineering, existing medico-technical apparatus and equipment as well as monitoring with focus on adequate and safe handling. Disaster medicine contains traumatology and triage to prepare students for work in major accidents and disasters.

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.

Additional Information

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

Students are guaranteed clinical placements in Karlstad University's partner regions. 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.

Scope of the programme

An academic year comprises 40 weeks, equivalent to 60 credits. One week of full-time studies is equivalent to 1.5 credits. Instruction is primarily distance-based with some on-campus group meetings. Attendance is mandatory for some course components (examinations), as specified in the course syllabi.

Moving on to the next level

The programme courses follow each other. 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 take leave from studies with a guaranteed place upon returning have to notify the study and career counsellor in writing, using a specific form.

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 6 December 2017, reg. no: HNT 2017/575.