



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care

- Programme Code:** VASOP
- Programme Title:** Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care
- Credits:** 60
- Programme Approval:** The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 24 January 2007 and is valid from the autumn semester of 2007 at Karlstad University.
Revisions: 28 August 2008, 23 March 2009 valid from the autumn semester of 2008; 1 February 2010, 24 November 2010, 16 December 2010 valid from the autumn semester of 2011.
- Language of Instruction:** Swedish
- Degree Level:** Master (60 credits)
- Degree Type:** Professional and general
- Prerequisites:** A Nursing licence issued by the Social Welfare Agency.
- Special requirements:** Nursing degree (180 ECTS credits) including degree project of at least 15 ECTS cr, or Bachelor's degree in health care, or equivalent qualifications.
Professional experience as a full-time nurse for at least 12 months.
Upper secondary level Swedish B/Swedish 2 B and English A.

Revisions

28 Aug 2008, Faculty Board: Addition to regulation on expulsion, effective from date of decision.

23 March 2009, Dean: English translation of degree title for one-year Master's degree, effective from the autumn 2008 admission.

1 Feb 2010, Higher Education Agency: Degree title and new English translation, effective from 1 Feb 2010.

24 Nov 2010, Faculty Board: Change in prerequisites, effective from the autumn 2011 admission.

16 Dec 2010, Dean (DEK3 86/10): Change of the term clinical medicine to medical science, effective from the autumn 2011 admission.

General Information

The programme leads to a postgraduate diploma in specialist nursing in theatre care, which includes professional qualifications as well as an academic Master's degree.

A theatre nurse works with patients of all age groups who suffer from a wide range of medical problems – from the most common to complex and acute diseases and injuries – and who undergo general or specialist surgery, examination or treatment. Theatre nurses must act with the safety and security of the patient in mind in different situations, respecting the patient's integrity and the patient's right to make decisions affecting his or her own health.

All specialist nurses are expected to follow, implement and contribute to research and development as well as to initiate and lead quality improvement work. Theatre nurses play a vital role in the planning and management of the care given and in collaborating with other professional categories and supervising and instructing students.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

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

Chapter 1, § 9, of the Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434, 2006:173) states that postgraduate 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. 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.

Objectives of the General and Professional Degree in Prehospital Nursing (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100, 2006:1053)

The Higher Education Ordinance lists the national aims and objectives common to all educational programmes for specialist nurses. For a degree in specialist nursing to be awarded, students should demonstrate the ability to work independently as a specialist nurse.

Knowledge and understanding

To earn a degree in specialist nursing, students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of the field, an understanding of current research and development, and an understanding of the links between science and proven experience and their importance to professional practice,
- demonstrate a specialised ability to plan, perform and evaluate as well as lead and coordinate health care.

Skills and abilities

To earn a degree in specialist nursing, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a deeper ability to work independently and in collaboration with patients and their family members in identifying patient needs and formulating a care plan,
- demonstrate the ability to lead and evaluate care and treatment,
- demonstrate a deeper ability to initiate, carry out and evaluate health promotion and preventive care,
- demonstrate the ability to integrate theory and to analyse, assess and manage complex questions and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to take part in and supervise medical examinations and treatments including palliative care, and
- demonstrate the ability to advice and instruct pedagogically.

Judgement and approach

To earn a degree in specialist nursing, students should be able to:

- demonstrate self-knowledge and empathy,
- demonstrate the ability to make a holistic evaluation of a course of treatment on the basis of relevant scientific, societal, and ethical aspects with special focus on human rights,
- demonstrate a professional approach to patients and their family members, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training.

Upon completion of the Study Programme for Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care at Karlstad University, students should also be able to:

- demonstrate mastery of the techniques of surgical asepsis and instrumentation as well as infection and complication prevention in connection with surgery, treatment and examination, and ability to handle biological samples, and
- demonstrate the ability to handle biological preparations, and
- demonstrate the ability to implement their specialist knowledge in the aftermath of 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 2006:1053) as well as the laws and statutes which regulate theatre care nursing.

Programme Structure

The programme is offered by the universities of Karlstad (Kau) and Linköping (LIU) in conjunction, and with a number of county council hospitals. The programme is partly web based and runs at full-time pace. The programme consists of theoretical as well as practical professional training with independent study as part of all course components. Students are assigned a local study group tied to one of the county council hospitals involved. The mentor leading the group is a specialist nurse with at least two years' work experience in theatre care nursing. The mentor meets the study group regularly, providing guidance and supervision on

assignments and methodology exercises, and helping students reach the aims and objectives of the course. Under the guidance of the appointed mentor and in collaboration with other group members, students are given the opportunity to develop their ability to reflect on their professional role and to approach their work as operating room nurses with an increased level of awareness of what this work entails. Mentors work in close collaboration with the programme convenors at both Kau and LIU.

Forms of instruction vary. The aim is to stimulate students to be active learners and to take personal responsibility for their own learning process, both individually and as a group. The aim is also for students to become better at working in teams, collaborating with others, and instructing and teaching non-specialists.

The programme integrates theoretical and practical components; the aim is to form a cohesive whole which allows for personal development and a meaningful learning process. Students participate in planning, carrying out and evaluating all teaching and instruction, in the practical as well as in the theoretical modules. The courses gradually become more advanced and are continuously linked to operating room nursing in practice.

Students are assigned a professional training placement, primarily in one of the county council hospitals with which the university has a previous agreement. Students may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses in connection with the training period.

Students are encouraged to take part in studies on 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 partake 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: Theatre Care comprises 60 credits. Students take five courses in operating room nursing, including both theoretical and practical placement components.

The main subject is nursing science with a focus on theatre care. Students also take medical science. The courses aim at encouraging students to take a holistic perspective. Students will also take 7.5 credits in research methods as part of the other courses on the programme.

For a degree in specialist nursing to be awarded, students must complete and submit a degree project comprising 15 credits in the main subject nursing science. The practical professional placement lasts a total of eighteen weeks.

During the course of the programme, students will broaden and deepen previously acquired knowledge in the fields of nursing science and medical science, with a special emphasis on theatre nursing.

The programme covers the following subject areas:

- Nursing Science: Theatre Nursing/Perioperative Nursing 30 credits
- Medical Science: Theatre Nursing, 30 credits

Courses

Students take the following courses:

- Theatre Nursing as a Profession, 7.5 credits
- Perioperative Nursing 7.5 credits
- Theatre Nursing in Theory and Practice, 22.5 credits
- Managing and Developing Theatre Nursing, 7.5 credits
- Degree Project: Theatre Nursing, 15 credits

See Appendix for further details.

Nursing Science with an Emphasis on Theatre Nursing

Nursing Science is the main subject on the programme. It is also the foundation for all professional theatre nursing. Nursing aims to preserve patients' 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. Theatre nurses provide preoperative nursing care, which is a systematic way of reflecting on patient needs and wishes in connection with surgical treatment. On the basis of care needs, the theatre nurse makes choices and gives priority to the care provided in the pre-, intra- and postoperative phases. The perioperative nursing process combines science, art and ethics in praxis. Perioperative care also includes the management and organisation of surgery. Nursing research creates knowledge of individual, group and societal interpretations of and reactions to health, ill health, health risks and functional impairment and of the effects of nursing methods and techniques. Research in the field provides nurses with evidence-based knowledge for their professional practice.

Medical Science with an Emphasis on Theatre Nursing

Medical science has a focus on specialised knowledge in medicine, including topographical anatomy, pathology, surgery, pharmacology, medical technology, microbiology and hygiene with an emphasis theatre nursing, as well as disaster medicine, which focuses on traumatology and triage in connection with major accidents and disasters.

Examination

Examination forms are specified in each syllabus.

Degree Awarded

The professional degree awarded is

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing – Theatre Care.

The general degree awarded is

Master of Science (60 credits). Major: Nursing Science.

Transfer of Credits

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad. The recognition of previous education as credit for part of a course is subject to approval by the examiner. The recognition of previous education as credit for an entire course is subject to approval by the Office for Student Services.

Additional Information

Duration

The duration of the study programme is indicated by the number of credits it yields as a full-time study programme; 40 weeks is equivalent to 60 credits. (Chapter 6, §2 of The Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 2006:1053).

Moving Up

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

Local Regulations

Local regulations at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

Student Expulsion Procedures

As stipulated in the *Higher Education Act* Ch. 2, sect. 6, SFS 1992: 1434, and Regulations of Student Expulsion from Higher Education SFS 1987: 915, 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.

Appendix I: Overview of programme structure

Overview of programme structure: Specialist Nursing - Operating Room Nursing, 60 ECTS credits

Nursing 30 ECTS credits and Clinical medicine 45 ECTS credits are included in the programme. Part time. A Degree project, 15 ECTS credits is included and is introduced and carried out during terms 1 and 2.

Asepsis, hygiene, preoperative care with technique, topographical anatomy, research methods etc. are studied within the programme.

Term 1, autumn (full time, 30hp)

<p>Course: Operating room nursing as a profession 7,5 ECTS Credits</p> <p><i>Field studies</i></p>	<p>Course: Nursing environment with an emphasis on the operating room 7,5 ECTS Credits</p> <p><i>Experiential studies : 3 weeks¹</i></p>	<p>Course: Operating room nursing in theory and practice 7,5 ECTS Credits (9 ECTS credits in term 1)</p> <p><i>Experiential studies 12 weeks of which one week anaesthesia¹</i></p>
<p>Course: Degree project – Operating room nursing 15 ECTS Credits (6 ECTS credits in term 1)</p> <p><i>Field studies</i></p>		

Term 2, spring (full time 30 ECTS credits)

<p>Course, continue: Operating room nursing in theory and practice 7,5 ECTS Credits</p> <p>(13,5 ECTS credits in term 2)</p> <p><i>Experiential studies continue (se term 2)</i></p>	<p>Course: Managing and developing operating room nursing 7,5 ECTS Credits</p> <p><i>Experiential studies, 3 weeks¹</i></p>
<p>Course, continue: Degree project – Operating room nursing 15 ECTS Credits (9 ECTS credits in term 2)</p> <p><i>Field studies</i></p>	

¹ Experiential studies are regarded as a unity and should be planned together with the student at the beginning of the programme. Experiential studies in Managing and developing operating room nursing should be connected to previous experiential study.