



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

Programme Syllabus

Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care

Programme Code:	VASOP
Programme Title:	Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care
	Specialistsjuksköterska med inriktning mot operationssjukvård
Credits:	60 ECTS credits
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology on 4 February 2021 and applies as of the spring semester of 2022.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Education Cycle:	Second cycle
Degree Type:	Professional
	The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)
Degree Level:	Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care
	Specialistsjuksköterskeexamen med inriktning mot operationssjukvård
	Degree of Master of Science (60 ECTS credits). Major: Nursing Science
	Filosofie magisterexamen Huvudområde: Omvårdnad
Entry Requirements:	General Entry Requirements: Nursing licence issued by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare.

Specific Entry Requirements: A Degree of Bachelor in Nursing (180 ECTS credits), including a degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits, a Degree of Bachelor in Nursing Science, or equivalent qualifications.

Professional experience in nursing corresponding to at least 12 months of full-time work.

Swedish B/Swedish as a Second Language B and English A/6

General Information

The study programme is concluded with a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care. Theatre care is included in perioperative nursing and requires the specialist nurse to possess the relevant skills to enable collaboration with other professions and thus ensure the best possible care for the patient. This is a specialised field comprising children, adolescents, adults, and elderly patients with common or complex illnesses and injuries that may require urgent treatment. Ensuring continuity of care and patient safety is imperative in perioperative nursing. Subsequently, a high degree of autonomy and responsiveness in complex situations is required.

The theatre care specialisation is based on theoretical knowledge of surgical methodology, medical technology, microbiology and hygiene, and perioperative nursing, all to improve responsiveness whether a procedure is urgent or elective. Other crucial elements are interaction and dialogue with the patient and next of kin based on the patient's issues and needs to collectively plan, implement, and evaluate care. Actions must be in accordance with the professional role and with respect for the patient's unique value, integrity, dignity, and autonomy.

Having acquired specialised skills, the specialist nurse has a supervisory responsibility to systematically plan and organise perioperative care in the surgical team. Responsibilities also include staying abreast of current research and proven experience with a view to implementation in perioperative nursing and initiating various efforts related to development and quality.

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, System of Qualifications (SFS 1993:100, 2006:1053), specifies the national outcomes required for certain degrees. All postgraduate diplomas in specialist nursing include the following outcomes:

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:

Theatre Care the student shall also

- demonstrate the ability to take responsibility for asepsis, instruments and measures to prevent infection and complications in connection with surgical interventions and the treatment and examination of patients as well as the ability to manage biological specimens, 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 1993:100, 2006:1053) as well as the laws and statutes which regulate specialist prehospital nursing.

General outcomes for a Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits) as specified in the Higher Education Ordinance

In addition to the above national objectives specified in the Higher Education Ordinance, System of Qualifications, (1993:100), the specialist nursing programme at Karlstad University conforms to the national objectives which regulate a general Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits) (SFS 2006:1053).

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate deepened methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Programme Structure

The programme is offered by Karlstad University (Kau) and partner regions pursuant to relevant agreements. The theoretical portion of the programme is primarily web-based. Independent study is a part of both theoretical and practical placement (VFU) components. Students are assigned to a local study group with ties to their region.

The mentor leading the group is a specialist theatre care nurse with a postgraduate diploma and at least two years of professional experience in theatre care nursing.

The mentor meets the study group regularly for reflection and discussion about assignments and proficiency exercises, and helps 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 and to approach their work as theatre care nurses with an increased level of awareness of what this work entails. Mentors work in close collaboration with course coordinators and other main supervisors.

The study programme includes 18 weeks of practical placement, primarily in one of the University's partner regions. The programme integrates theoretical and practical components to ensure a meaningful learning process and thus facilitate continuing professional development for the students. Forms of instruction vary. The aim is to stimulate students to take personal responsibility for their own learning process. Practical placement evaluation is a collaborative process involving the student, specialist nurse mentor, main supervisor, and the course teacher.

For a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student is required to complete a 15 ECTS credit independent project (degree project) in Nursing Science within the study programme.

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.

The Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care offers students the opportunity to complete part of their practical placement abroad in the second half of the programme. There is significant variation internationally between programmes for specialist nursing in theatre care, and the student will be required to meet the intended learning outcomes. International placement can also constitute an opportunity for the students to collect data for the degree project.

Programme Curriculum

The Study Programme for Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care comprises 60 ECTS credits. The programme includes five courses with an emphasis on theatre care, including both theoretical and practical placement components. The main field of study is Perioperative Nursing with a focus on Theatre Care and Medical Science. The courses aim to encourage students to employ a holistic perspective in their learning, a crucial element of perioperative nursing.

As part of the programme, students will take 7.5 ECTS credits in research methodology - 6 ECTS credits in The Responsibility and Competence of the Operating Theatre Nurse in Perioperative Care and 1.5 ECTS credits in Managing and Developing Theatre Care.

Specialised study in the main field

In the main field of Perioperative Nursing with a focus on Theatre Care, specialised study is related to the area of Perioperative Nursing and the future role of the students as specialist nurses in Theatre Care.

The Study Programme for Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care comprises 60 ECTS credits, 30 of which are in the main field of study and 30 of which are in Medical Science. Specialised study includes the gradual advancement of knowledge in the main field of Perioperative Nursing and in Medical Science.

Perioperative Nursing is the foundation of knowledge on which the ability for autonomous theatre care nursing rests. Key concepts in Perioperative Nursing are based on a human science perspective and include person/ human being, health/ suffering, surroundings/ environment, and care. Perioperative Nursing is described as the duties of theatre care nurse in the pre-, intra- and postoperative phases when a patient scheduled for surgery. The purpose is to ensure continuity of care. Perioperative Nursing includes care methods and activities related to surgical treatment as well as the organisation and management of perioperative care.

The first course introduces basic theories and concepts in Perioperative Nursing, responsibility in relation to legislation and fundamental ethical aspects, and sustainable development. Also included are theoretical studies of topographical anatomy, microbiology and hygiene, and medical technology to enable the proper planning of a patient's operation as well as the prevention of infection and perioperative iatrogenic harm. Theoretical knowledge is integrated with clinical proficiency exercises under supervision during practical placement.

Systematic review of current research that bolsters the critical approach of the theatre care nurse and infuses perioperative care with evidence-based knowledge. The purpose is to add more depth to the knowledge and application of scientific method to aid the student in the degree project.

The following courses integrate Medical Science with Perioperative Nursing to form a holistic view of the perioperative care received by the patient. That view includes the integration of topographical anatomy based on operation methodology and ensuring the medical equipment required to perform the operation. Another key element is maintaining an aseptic approach and working with the surgical team to ensure a sterile environment where the hygiene protocol is adhered to in conjunction with operations.

Students should demonstrate the ability to professionally initiate, implement, and evaluate the care given, both autonomously and in consultation with the patient and potentially next-of-kin. The purpose is to enable care to be planned based on the patient's needs and gather knowledge to aid the response to unforeseen events. Practical placement integrates theory and practice under supervision to foster professional accountability and autonomy in the student.

The theatre care nurse has a supervisory role in the surgical team, where emphasis is on cooperation and communication to secure quality of care. The work requires the ability to draw on specialist skills for coordination in emergencies and decision-making in unforeseen events to ensure qualitative perioperative care. Another aspect is the ability to collaborate with other professions in perioperative care.

On an organisational level, the responsiveness of a theatre care nurse in conjunction with trauma and catastrophes is studied. The student should display the independent ability to apply and reflect on research and development work, nationally and internationally, as it relates to the development of perioperative care. An independent project is included as specialised study in the main field.

The programme comprises the following courses.

The Responsibility and Competence of the Operating Theatre Nurse in Perioperative Care, 15 ECTS credits The Theory and Practice of Basic Theatre Care in Perioperative Care, 7.5 ECTS credits

The Theory and Practice of Specialised Theatre Care in Perioperative Care with a Focus on Teamwork and Leadership, 22.5 ECTS credits

Degree Project: Theatre Care, 15 ECTS 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.

Additional Information

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

An academic year comprises 40 weeks, equivalent to 60 ECTS credits. One week of full-time studies is equivalent to 1.5 ECTS 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.

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

Students are guaranteed practical placements in Karlstad University's partner regions. Practical placement outside the 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 practical placement.

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

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 16 December 2010, reg.no. FAK3 2007/21.