



## Programme Syllabus

Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care

<b>Programme Code:</b>	VASOP
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Study Programme for Specialist Nursing in Theatre Care Specialistsjuksköterska med inriktning mot operationssjukvård
<b>Credits:</b>	60 credits
<b>Programme Approval:</b>	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology on 1 June 2022 and applies as of the spring semester of 2023, Rev. 15 March 2023.
<b>Language of Instruction:</b>	Swedish
<b>Education Cycle:</b>	Second
<b>Degree Type:</b>	Professional The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)
<b>Degree Title:</b>	Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care Degree of Master of Science (60 credits). Main field of study: Nursing Science
<b>Entry Requirements:</b>	General 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, or equivalent. 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 may be made.

## **General Information**

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

Theatre care is included in perioperative care 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 context comprising children, adolescents, adults, and elderly patients with common or complex illnesses and injuries. The perioperative care work requires ensuring continuity of care and guaranteeing the patient's safety. Work as a specialist nurse requires the ability to independently handle complex nursing situations within the context of specialist care.

The specialist nurse's competence with a focus on theatre care is based on theoretical knowledge of surgical methodology, medical technology, microbiology and hygiene, and perioperative nursing. The knowledge is required to be ready for action in both emergency and planned surgery. The specialist nurse, based on her specialist competence, has a managerial responsibility to systematically plan and organise perioperative care work in the surgical team. The operation theatre nurse's responsibilities also include supervising students and teaching nursing staff. Furthermore, work includes following, implementing and contributing to research and development, as well as initiating and leading development projects.

The perioperative care work includes having conversations to inform the patient and possibly relatives based on the patient's needs. The specialist nurse's professional approach is based on respect for the patient's unique value, integrity and dignity as well as autonomy.

## **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, Ch. 1 Sec. 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

#### *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. During both the theoretical components and the practical placement, the work methods vary and are designed so that the students are stimulated to take responsibility for their own learning.

Independent study is conducted both in terms of theoretical study and practical placement. Students are assigned to a local study group tied in their region. The main supervisor leading the group is a specialist theatre care nurse with a postgraduate diploma and at least two years of professional experience in theatre care. The main supervisor meets with 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 main supervisor and in collaboration with other group members, students are given the opportunity to develop their ability to reflect and to approach their work as operating theatre nurses with an increased level of awareness of what this work entails. In order to promote learning, the main supervisor works in close collaboration with course coordinators, teachers and other main supervisors.

The study programme includes 18 weeks of practical placement in the regions that collaborate with Karlstad University. The programme integrates theoretical and practical components to ensure a meaningful learning process which provides a progression in the student's development in their future profession. 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, supervising specialist nurse, main supervisor, and the course teacher.

#### 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.

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.

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

#### **Programme Curriculum**

The Study Programme for Specialist Nursing: Theatre Care comprises 60 credits. The programme includes four courses with an emphasis on theatre care, including both theoretical and practical placement components.

In order to create conditions for a holistic perspective in the student's learning, the main field of study, nursing, is integrated with medical science and learning outcomes 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 specialisation in theatre care.

In the main field of nursing with a specialisation in theatre care, specialised study is related to the area of perioperative care and the future professional function as a specialist nurse in theatre care. Out of the specialist nursing programme's total of 60 credits, the main field of study, nursing, comprises 30 credits and medical science 30 credits.

*Programme courses:*

- The Responsibility and Competence of the Operating Theatre Nurse in Perioperative Care, 15 credits
- The Theory and Practice of Basic Theatre Care in Perioperative Care, 7.5 credits
- The Theory and Practice of Specialised Theatre Care in Perioperative Care with a Focus on Teamwork and Leadership, 22.5 credits
- Degree Project: Theatre Care, 15 credits

*Perioperative nursing* includes the nurse anaesthetist and operating theatre nurse's pre-, intra- and postoperative care of a patient who is to undergo surgery. Within perioperative care, the nurse anaesthetist and operating theatre nurse have different responsibilities for the patient's care based on their specialist competence.

*Medical science specialising in perioperative care* focuses on in-depth knowledge of topographical anatomy, surgical techniques/methodology, microbiology/hygiene and medical technology. This is to be able to pre-operatively plan, intra-operatively carry out one's responsibilities and be prepared to act in the face of unforeseen events, as well as ensuring the patient's continued post-operative care and evaluating completed care.

Based on their specialist competence in hygiene and aseptic techniques, the operating theatre nurse has the ability to prevent post-operative infections. It also means being able to communicate and coordinate different care activities in the surgical team. Furthermore, the operation theatre nurse's participation in disasters and various traumas is also included.

*Nursing specialisation perioperative nursing* is the knowledge base of the operating theatre nurse's independent professional responsibilities. Perioperative nursing includes all care actions and care activities related to surgical treatments as well as organisation and leadership of the perioperative care work. The perioperative dialogue is carried out pre-, intra- and postoperatively with the patient based on the purpose of planning, implementing and evaluating the perioperative care and creating continuity in the care work.

Key concepts in perioperative nursing are based on a human science perspective and include person/human being, health/suffering, surroundings/environment and care. It also includes basic theories and concepts in perioperative nursing, responsibility in relation to legislation, ethical aspects and sustainable development.

### **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**

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

#### 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 their practical placement have the opportunity of a new practical placement 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.

### Practical placement

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

An internship can be ended if a student shows gross incompetence and will, by doing so, receive a Fail by the examiner.

### 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, reg. no: HNT 2021/70.