



Programme Syllabus

Nursing

Programme Code:	VGSSK
Programme Title:	<i>Study Programme in Nursing</i> Sjuksköterskeprogrammet
Credits:	180 ECTS credits
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology, on 3 June 2021 and is valid from spring semester 2022.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree level:	Bachelor's
Degree Type:	Professional and general The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Bachelor.
Degree Level:	Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing <i>Sjuksköterskeexamen</i> Degree of Bachelor of Science. Main field of study: Nursing <i>Filosofie kandidatexamen Huvudområde: Omvårdnad</i>
Entry Requirements:	General admission requirements plus upper secondary level Mathematics 2a/2b/2c, Natural Science 2, and Civics 1b/1a1+1a2

Introduction

The nursing programme at Karlstad University is designed to give students opportunity to acquire the knowledge and professional skills required to work as a registered nurse as well as for further academic studies. The degree programme is designed to prepare for the future demands of continuous learning and development. Nursing Science is the main subject in this study programme. It is also the foundation of knowledge upon which autonomous nursing rests. Nursing is the specific expertise of the registered nurse, and includes both scientific knowledge and point-of-care work based on a humanist view of human beings. The registered nurse's work is based on the nursing process and the nurse is responsible for making autonomous clinical decisions that results in improving, maintaining or recovering people's health, helps with dealing with health problems, illness or disability, as well as achieving the best possible well-being and quality of life up until death. The registered nurse shall also have knowledge about medical science and behavioural science relevant for the treatment of patients, as well as an understanding of sustainable development in healthcare. The work must be conducted in compliance with legislation, ordinances and other policy documents governing healthcare. An ethical approach shall permeate the work of the registered nurse. All nursing is based on a respect for human rights, consideration of people's values, habits, beliefs, autonomy, integrity and dignity. The registered nurse shall perform the work based on the six core areas of expertise: patient-centred care, teamwork, evidence-based nursing, improvement science and quality development, safe care and informatics¹.

ProgrammeAims

The Higher Education Ordinance, System of Qualifications, specifies the outcomes required for certain degrees. According to the Swedish Higher Education Act, all first-cycle education shall develop the students' ability to make independent and critical assessments, their ability to independently identify, formulate and solve problems, and preparedness to deal with changes in the profession. In addition to knowledge and skills in their field of study, students shall develop the ability to: gather and interpret information at a scholarly level, stay abreast of the development of knowledge, and communicate their knowledge to others, including those who lack specialist knowledge in the field². A Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 180 ECTS credits and the special requirements specified in The Higher Education Ordinance³. For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for registration as a nurse.

The aims for a Degree of Bachelor of Nursing are as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and awareness of current research and development work as well as the links between research and proven experience and the significance of these links for professional practice,
- demonstrate knowledge of the planning, management and coordination of health care measures,
- demonstrate knowledge of social circumstances that influence the health of children, women and men,

¹ Kompetensbeskrivning för legitimerad sjuksköterska, The Swedish Society of Nursing, 2017

² Ch. 1, sect 8, Higher Education Act, SFS 2006:173

³ SFS 2006:1053

- demonstrate knowledge of men's violence towards women and violence in close relationships, and
- demonstrate knowledge of the relevant statutory provisions.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing the student shall

- 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, as well as providing care and treatment
- demonstrate the ability to manage pharmaceuticals appropriately and also to inform patients of the effects and side effects of pharmaceuticals
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need of measures to promote health and prevent ill health and implement them
- demonstrate the ability to initiate methodological improvements and quality assurance,
- demonstrate the ability to apply his or her knowledge to deal with different situations, phenomena and issues on the basis of the needs of individuals and groups,
- demonstrate the ability to inform and instruct different audiences and also to undertake supervisory duties,
- demonstrate the ability to describe and discuss interventions and treatment results in speech and writing with those concerned and in document these in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions,
- demonstrate a capacity for teamwork and cooperation with other professional categories, and
- demonstrate the ability to review, assess and use relevant information critically and to discuss new data, phenomena and issues with various audiences and so contribute to the development of the profession and professional practice.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing the student shall

- 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.

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits. In addition to the above requirements in the Qualifications Ordinance, the nursing programme at Karlstad University has been designed to meet the requirements for a general Bachelor's degree⁴ and the current laws and regulations of the nursing profession. The requirements for a general Degree of Bachelor of Arts/Science (180 ECTS credits) are the following:

⁴ SFS 2006:1053

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field, knowledge of applicable methodologies in the field, specialised study in some aspect of the field as well as awareness of current research issues.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret the relevant information for a formulated problem and also discuss phenomena, issues and situations critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate and solve problems autonomously and to complete tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required to work autonomously in the main field of study.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects,
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

Programme Structure

The study programme has a process-oriented approach, which means that learning is viewed as an ongoing, meaning-creating and active process in which knowledge is constructed together with others. The educational width, depth and complexity are gradually increased. The forms of instruction vary and include independent study, group work, lectures and seminars. The programme integrates theoretical and practical knowledge to optimise the acquisition of professional competence based on science and well-founded experience. Clinical training comprises studies with explicit connection to clinical work, such as simulated patient cases and exercises in nursing methods and techniques conducted on campus, as well as practical placement. The student's professional development and her/his self-knowledge are fostered throughout the programme, through a continuous reflection process. The language of instructions is Swedish, but some components may be taught in English. Literature in both Swedish and English is used in the programme.

Internationalisation

Karlstad University wants to promote collaboration and exchange with other universities. Karlstad University has partnerships with several 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 given the opportunity to complete part of the programme at a university abroad.

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

Programme Curriculum

The nursing programme comprises 180 ECTS cr and consists of integrated courses in nursing 105 ECTS cr, medical science 57.5 ECTS cr and social and behavioural science 10 ECTS cr. In addition there is an elective course of 7.5 ECTS cr. The course does not have to be in the main field of study, but it must be of relevance for the intended learning outcomes of the Study Programme in Nursing. Scientific methods in nursing (15 ECTS cr) are included, of which 7.5 credits are integrated in the courses. An independent degree project of 15 credits is also included. The study programme is characterised by selected themes, with a progression that covers all three years of the programme. The progression involves higher demands through the increasing complexity in course content and modes of study and in student independence. The study programme includes 86.5 ECTS cr of clinical studies, of which 48 ECTS cr are practical placement. Practical placements include healthcare in all of Värmland, which may result in an increase in cost for the student. The programme comprises the following courses, see table 1. The order of the courses may vary.

Table 1. Overview of the programme courses

Course	Nursing Science	Medical science	Social and Behavioural science	Credits per course	Progression in the main field of study
Fundamental of Nursing and the Nursing Profession *	13	14	3	30	G1N
Basic Clinical Nursing *	18	10	2	30	G1N
Nursing in Relation to Symptoms and Signs of Illness	22	15.5		37.5	G1F
Nursing in Relation to Acute Situations	3.5	4		7.5	G1F
Optional course**				7.5	
Scientific Methods in Nursing	7.5			7.5	G2F
Nursing in Long-term Illness and Multimorbidity	16	11	3	30	G2F
Degree Project in Nursing	15			15	G2E
Nursing Profession, Clinical Competence and Leadership	10	3	2	15	G2F
Total amount of ECTS cr	105	57.5	10	180	

* Included in these courses is scientific method in nursing worth a total of 7.5 credits

**Optional course of 7.5 credits in nursing, medical science or social and behavioural science.

CreditTransfer

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 ECTS credits. The relation between scheduled classes and individual studies varies according to course content and jointly comprise full-time studies. Parts of the study programme require mandatory attendance, as stated in the course syllabus.

Moving on to the next level

Courses build on the knowledge acquired in previous courses. 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 practical placements have the opportunity to be reassessed at two occasions, as soon as organisationally possible.

Leave from or termination of studies

Students who wish to terminate or take leave/pause from their studies have to notify the study and career counsellor, using the available 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 institutions⁵.

This programme syllabus will replace the previous version approved 23 February 2015 (HNT 2015/53).

⁵ Higher Education Act Chap. 4 Sect. 6, SFS 1992:1434; Ordinance on the Expulsion of Students from Higher Education, SFS 2007:989