



# Programme Syllabus

## Nursing

<b>Programme Code:</b>	VGSSP
<b>Programme Title:</b>	<i>Study Programme in Nursing</i> Sjuksköterskeprogrammet
<b>Credits:</b>	180
<b>Programme Approval:</b>	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology on 1 February 2024, and applies as of the autumn semester of 2024.
<b>Language of Instruction:</b>	Swedish
<b>Education Cycle:</b>	First (Bachelor's level)
<b>Degree Type:</b>	Professional. The programme also fulfils the requirements of a general Degree of Bachelor of Science.
<b>Degree Title:</b>	Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing  Degree of Bachelor of Science. Main field of study: Nursing
<b>Entry Requirements:</b>	General admission requirements plus Mathematics 2a/2b/2c, Natural Science 2, and Civics 1b/1a1+1a2.

## **Introduction**

The nursing programme at Karlstad University is designed for students to acquire the knowledge and professional skills required to work as a registered nurse as well as preparing them for further academic studies. The degree programme is also designed to meet the future requirements of life-long learning and development. Nursing is the main field of study of the degree programme. It also constitutes the foundation of knowledge upon which autonomous nursing rests. Nursing refers to the specific expertise of a registered nurse, and includes both scientific knowledge and bedside work, founded on a humanistic approach. Work as a registered nurse is based on the nursing process. The nurse is responsible for making autonomous clinical decisions that offer individuals greater opportunities to improve, maintain or recover their health, manage health problems, illness or disabilities, as well as achieving the best possible well-being and quality of life until the day life ends. The registered nurse shall also have knowledge of medical science and behavioural science relevant to the treatment of patients as well as of relevance to those close to the patient, and an understanding of sustainable development in healthcare. 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 competencies of expertise: patient-centred care, teamwork, evidence-based nursing, improvement knowledge and quality development, patient safety and informatics<sup>1</sup>.

## **Programme outcomes**

The Higher Education Ordinance, System of Qualifications, specifies the outcomes required for specific 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 field<sup>2</sup>. A Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 180 credits and met the special requirements specified in The Higher Education Ordinance<sup>3</sup>. For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for registration as a nurse.

The outcomes for a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Kompetensbeskrivning för legitimerad sjuksköterska, the Swedish Society of Nursing, 2023

<sup>2</sup> Higher Education Act, Chap. 1 Sect. 8, SFS 2009:1037

<sup>3</sup> SFS 2006:1053

### *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,
- demonstrate knowledge of men's violence towards women and violence in intimate relationships, and
- demonstrate knowledge of the relevant legislation. .

### *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 plans autonomously 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 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 document these in accordance with the relevant legislations,
- demonstrate a capacity for teamwork and cooperation with other professional categories, and
- demonstrate the ability to review, assess and use relevant information with a critical stance 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 stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance, the nursing programme at Karlstad University has been designed to meet the requirements for a general Degree of Bachelor<sup>4</sup> and applicable laws and regulations of the nursing profession. The requirements for a general Degree of Bachelor of Arts/Science (180 credits) are the following:

### *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

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<sup>4</sup> SFS 2006:1053

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues,
- 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 degree 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 increase gradually. The forms of instruction vary and include independent study, group work, lectures, seminars, exercises in nursing methods and techniques, and simulations. The student's professional development and self-knowledge are fostered through a continuous reflection process. The programme integrates theoretical and practical knowledge through clinical placements to optimise the acquisition of professional competence based on science and well-founded experience. Peer learning is used where applicable, both for the theoretical components as well as during clinical placements. 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 promotes 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. 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 from an international perspective.

### **Programme curriculum**

The nursing programme comprises 180 credits and consists of integrated courses in nursing (110 credits), medical science (60 credits) and social and behavioural science (10 credits). Scientific methods in nursing (15 credits) are included, of which 7.5 credits are integrated in the courses. An independent degree project of 15 credits is also included. The progression involves higher demands through increasing complexity from year one to year three in relation to course content and modes of study and in student independence. The theoretical framework Fundamentals of Care is used where applicable. The programme includes clinical placement, comprising 64.5 credits, in healthcare services in all of Värmland, which may result in increased

costs for the student. The courses included in the programme are presented in Table 1. The order of the courses may vary.

Table 1. Overview of the programme courses

Course	Semester	Credits per course	Specialisation in the main field of study
The nursing profession and responsibilities of a nurse, the basics of nursing and medical science. *	1	30	G1N
The nursing profession and responsibilities of a nurse in relation to geriatric and cardiovascular care and pharmacology *	2	30	G1N
The nursing profession and responsibilities of a nurse in relation to surgical, medical and psychiatric care	3 and 4	39	G1F
The nursing profession and responsibilities of a nurse in relation to neurological, oncological and palliative care as well as primary care	4 and 5	28.5	G2F
Scientific methods in nursing	4 or 5	7.5	G2F
Degree project in nursing	5	15	G2E
The nursing profession and responsibilities of a nurse in relation to emergency situations as well as the leadership and educational function of a nurse	6	30	G2F

\* Included in these courses is scientific method in nursing, comprising a total of 7.5 credits

### **Credit transfer**

Students have the right to transfer credits from previously completed university courses in Sweden or abroad. Credit transfer is 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 (40 hrs) is the equivalent of 1.5 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 placements have the opportunity to be reassessed on one occasion. Examinations requiring that the student completes a clinical placement period are, as far as possible, held in the next course round, but within one year at the latest.

#### *Leave from or termination of studies*

Students who wish to take leave from or terminate their studies have to notify a study and career counsellor in writing. Students who wish to return to their studies following a leave period have to notify a study and career counsellor in writing.

#### *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<sup>5</sup>.

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

*Study Programme in Nursing*  
Approved 1 February 2024

This programme syllabus will replace the previous version approved 3 June 2021 (HNT 2021/297).