



HÖGSKOLAN I GÄVLE

PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

SECOND CYCLE

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIALIST
NURSING - PRIMARY CARE

Programme Code: VASDM

Established by the Board of Humanities, Care and
Social Sciences 2006-10-26

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Social Sciences 2007-02-01

Programme Syllabus

**Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing
- Primary Care, 75 HE credits**

(Specialistsjuksköterskeprogrammet, 75 hp)

**This programme syllabus applies to students admitted to the
autumn semester of 2008 or later.**

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIALIST NURSING
- PRIMARY CARE,
at Högskolan i Gävle**

1 General Arrangement

Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing with above stated specialisation is received when the student has successfully completed required courses of 75 HE credits. The education includes clinical training and the extent should be adapted to the demands of the respective specialisation. Within the framework of the required courses, the student must also successfully complete an individual assignment (degree project).

2 Expected Learning Outcomes

The contents, length and level of the education are regulated by the following documents which guarantee that completed education corresponds to the competence required, the entry requirements required for continued studies and EU requirements on the member states.

2.1 Expected Learning Outcomes According to the Higher Education Act¹

Second-cycle courses and study programmes should essentially develop the knowledge acquired by the students in first-cycle courses and study programmes or equivalent knowledge.

Second-cycle studies should imply a progression of knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to first-cycle studies and, should, in addition to the requirements of first-cycle studies,

- further develop the students' ability to independently integrate and use knowledge,
- develop the students' ability to handle complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop students' preconditions for working in sectors with high demands on autonomy or for research and development.

2.2 Expected Learning Outcomes for a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing according to the Higher Education Ordinance

The Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100, states the Expected learning outcomes applying to the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing in general:

Expected Learning Outcomes

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student should demonstrate the knowledge and abilities required in order to work independently as a nurse practitioner.

¹ Chapter 1, section 7, 9 (SFS 1992:1434)

Knowledge and Understanding

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing with respective specialisation, the student should

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific foundation of the field and understanding of current research and development, and knowledge of the relationship between science and best practice and the importance of the relationship for practising the profession, and
- demonstrate advanced knowledge of planning, management and coordination of health care.

Skills and Abilities

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing with respective specialisation, the student should

- demonstrate an advanced ability to independently, and in collaboration with patients and kindred, identify care needs and establish a care plan.
- demonstrate the ability to lead and evaluate care measures,
- demonstrate an advanced ability to initiate, carry out and evaluate health promoting and preventive work
- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and handle complex issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to participate in and independently carry out examinations and treatment including terminal care, and
- show nursing educational ability.

Judgement and Approach

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing with respective specialisation the student should

- demonstrate self-knowledge and empathy,
- with a comprehensive view of the human being, demonstrate the ability to make assessments based on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects with specific consideration to human rights
- show a professional attitude towards patients and kindred, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the own need of additional knowledge and to continuously develop the own skills.

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing with a specialisation in primary care, the student should also

- demonstrate the ability to independently assess, plan, carry out and evaluate the measures needed to promote the physical, mental and social health of patients, and prevent illness and complications due to illness
- demonstrate the ability to observe and assess complex needs of care, habilitation and rehabilitation of patients, and
- demonstrate the knowledge required in order to be responsible for medical examinations and vaccinations.

2.3 Other Regulations

The Health and Medical Services Act and the *Social Services Act* govern the work of the district nurse. Based on these acts, a district nurse must, with an ethical approach and in accordance with science and best practice within the speciality, be able to

- take initiatives and measures that intend to promote the health and prevent illness of individuals and groups
- be responsible for patient care
- be responsible for some and participate in examinations and treatments
- inform and teach children, youths, adults and elderly, both individually and in groups, and supervise and teach colleagues and students
- follow, utilise and participate in research and developments and initiate and lead development work
- lead, plan and develop the work within the own team and cooperate with other occupational groups, organisations and public authorities
- participate in treatment and care of injured in major accidents, disasters and war

In the profession, the district nurse must follow and be able to apply the ordinances, regulations and other rules that apply in the speciality.

The National Board of Health and Welfare's regulations of competence requirements for nurses and prescription of drugs, SOSFS 2001:16 (M), state the requirements for obtaining prescription rights

- professional status qualification as a nurse with a graduate diploma in specialist nursing constitutes 75 HE credits, including 15 HE credits in pharmacology and pathology
- to obtain prescription rights, district nurses must serve as district nurses within the primary care or home care service of the county council or the municipality, or within the health care of the municipality according to section 18 of the Health and Medical Services Act (1982:763).

The EEA agreement (DS 1992:34) are directives approved by the EC (the European Communities' council) (77/452-453, 90/658, 2005/36) for mutual recognition of certificates of professional competence for nurses with responsibility for general health care within the connected member states.

Act on Professional Activity in Public Health and Medical Care, SFS 1998:531. The regulations in this act apply to personnel active within health care. It is stated, for instance, that medical personnel should carry out their work in accordance with science and best practice.

3 Description of the Programme

3.1 Main Fields of Study

The main field of study is caring science. The Graduate Diploma in Primary Care Specialist Nursing includes Caring Science, 52.5 HE credits and Medical Science 22.5, HE credits.

The progression of the programme is carried out through increased complexity in the course contents and increased independence for the student when acquiring knowledge. The programme includes an independent degree project in caring science.

3.2 Teaching and Examination

3.2.1 Teaching

The educational view is based on the fact that all learning is an active dynamic process that takes place in collaboration between teachers and students. All teaching and supervision should be based on the student taking own responsibility for the studies and for active knowledge acquisition. The learning implies that the theoretical and practical knowledge elements included in the courses should be integrated as useful knowledge and skills in each individual. The student should also practice readiness for change and the ability to review the own knowledge to be able to actively participate in the development and evaluation of the professional domain. Different teaching and working methods should teach the student to actively search for knowledge, critical thinking and reflection.

The teaching is given as lectures, self-studies, study assignments, method exercises and seminars.

3.2.2 Examination

The programme aims at diversity in the forms of examination for the purposes of learning and control. Examination occurs in all courses and is adapted to the expected learning outcomes of the course. Examination may be carried out as individual written or oral tests, through examination assignments solved individually or in groups, through seminars and through assessing the knowledge and skills that the student has acquired during the clinical training.

3.3 Clinical Training/placement

Clinical training may consist of placement, field studies and method exercises. Placement is the part of the education that takes place in hospitals and other health care establishments. The teaching is given by nurses with adequate skills within the speciality. During placement, the student is given the opportunity to exercise the own ability to independently plan, carry out and evaluate nursing with varying degrees of difficulty, based on research. The student is also given the opportunity to practice the own ability to cooperate and exchange information with the other professionals within and outside the own organisation.

3.4 Student Influence

Students have influence over the programme through student representatives in the academy council. Students' participation in the development of programmes and courses is encouraged. A forum where representatives from the professional life, teachers and students regularly meet in so-called business meetings.

Different forms of course and programme evaluations are applied where students participate. The outcome of these and proposed improvements are submitted to the concerned faculty programme director, teachers, management, students and other staff. An evaluation of the whole study programme is carried out at the end of

3.5 Internationalisation

Students who want to carry out part of the study programme abroad may apply for this. The Department of Caring Sciences and Sociology has signed agreements or have developed collaborations with other universities and higher education institutions in Scandinavia, and with certain countries in Europe.

3.6 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development implies promoting health and a good environment for the needs of present and future generations. The programme courses include knowledge of health and quality of life for the purpose of promoting people's well-being, and to raise awareness of the importance of the environment for the health of the own and future generations.

3.7 Other Aspects

In the programme, the human being is highlighted from a physical, mental, social, spiritual and cultural perspective and gender equality is a recurring element in the course contents.

4 Courses within the Programme

S = Second Cycle

Year 1.					
Period	Course Code	Course/Course Name	HE credits	Level	Main Field of Study/Main Subject
1.1	VV260D	Course 1 Nursing Science in Public Health and Primary Health Care among Adults and Elderly	7.5	S	Caring Science
1.1	MV260D	Course 2 Public Health Diseases	7.5	S	Medical Science
1.2	VV261D	Course 3 Nursing Science - The Responsibility of the District Nurse.	7.5	S	Caring Science

1.2-1.3	VV262D	Course 4 Nursing Science and Care Development - The Responsibility of the District Nurse.	15	S	Caring Science
1.3	VV263D	Course 5 Nursing Science in Public Health and Primary Health Care among Children and Youths	7.5	S	Caring Science
1.4	VV264D	Course 6 Thesis/Degree Project in District Nursing	15	S	Caring Science
Year 2					
2.1	MV261D	Course 7 Pharmacology and Pathophysiology, Related to the Extended Role of the Districts Nurse	15	S	Medical Science

The programme includes 18 HE credits of clinical training, including placement, 16.5 HE credits (school health care, 1.5 HE credits, child health care in child welfare centre, 4.5 HE credits, primary care, 10.5 HE credits).

5 Entry Requirements

The entry requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Primary Care Specialist Nursing are professional status qualification as a nurse, awarded by the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Additional requirements are

- 120 credit points/180 HE credits nursing education.
- for those with a nursing education with less than 120 credit points/180 HE credits, 10 credit points/15 HE credits in scientific method is required.
- work experience as nurse, equivalent to at least 12 months of full-time duty.

6 Grades

Grades are given for the courses included in the programme, according to current syllabus.

7. Examination Regulations

7.1 Title of Qualification

Graduate Diploma in Primary Care Specialist Nursing

Students also have the opportunity to receive a master's degree in caring science according to the aims of the Degree Ordinance, appendix 2, the Higher Education Ordinance 1993:100.

7.2 Qualification Criteria

A Graduate Diploma in Primary Care Specialist Nursing is achieved when the student has successfully completed required courses of 75 HE credits. In addition, professional status qualification as a nurse, awarded by the National Board of Health and Welfare, is required.

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student should have successfully completed the placement part of the education, where the extent is adapted to the demands of the respective specialisation.

A master's degree is achieved when the student has successfully completed required courses of 60 HE credits with a certain specialisation decided by each higher education institution, of which at least 30 HE credits is an advanced study within the main field of study for the education. In addition, awarded bachelor's degree, bachelor of fine arts, professional qualification of at least 180 HE credits or equivalent foreign higher education qualification is required.²

Thesis (degree project)

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student must have successfully completed an individual assignment (degree project) within the framework of the required courses.

For a master's degree, the student must have successfully completed an individual assignment (degree project) within the framework of the required courses, of at least 15 HE credits, within the main field of study of the education.

7.3 Degree Certificates

Students who fulfil the requirements for higher education qualification should receive a degree certificate on request. In the degree certificate, the specialisation of the education should be stated.

8 Further Instructions

8.1 Re-examination

Theoretical Education

Students who have not utilised or who have failed the regular examination are given the opportunity of five re-examinations. Students who have not passed a course after three examinations (the regular examination and the following two re-examinations) are referred to study guidance.

² Exceptions from the requirement of an awarded higher education qualification may be made for students who have been admitted to the programme without the general entry requirements in the form of a higher education qualification. However, this does not apply if by the time of admission, exceptions have been made according to chapter 7, section 28, second paragraph, due to the fact that the certificate has not yet been awarded. (SFS 2006:1053)

Students who have not passed after two examinations have the right to another examiner.

Placement

Students who have failed the placement have the right to go through the education once more within the concerned area of activity. Students who have failed after renewed education are referred to study guidance.

8.2 Approved Leave from Studies

The study guidance grants approved leave from studies based on the regulations of the National Agency for Higher Education.

Students who have had approved leave from studies and who have followed an earlier programme syllabus and want to resume the studies, have the possibility to follow this programme syllabus based on an adapted study path.