

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship]
Awarding Body	University of Suffolk
Level of Award¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure²	240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Duration³	2 years
Intended Award	FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate)
Named Exit Awards	Cert HE Health and Wellbeing
Entry Requirements⁴	Apprentices must be employed in the health or care sector. Maths and English GCSE 4-9 (A-C) or Functional Skills Level 2. Any offer of a place will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. A formal interview with course team and employer partners to be completed prior to any offers.
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	Not applicable

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship]. The information provided is accurate for apprentices entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Course Summary

The Foundation degree is an employment-based higher education qualification set out by the Department for Education and Skills. It offers apprentices a mix of work-related specialist skills and academic study. Graduates of the FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship] will be well placed to take advantage of a variety of career openings which exist in the health and care arena. This programme will be offered as part of the Higher Apprenticeship and is mapped to the Nursing Associate Standard.

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and the course team aim to:

- Provide you with the knowledge, understanding and associated skills that will enable you to work effectively, flexibly, and responsively within your work arena.
- Enable you with the ability to recognise the scope, depth and breadth of your knowledge and skills within the interprofessional team.
- Provide you with an appropriate understanding of the regulatory and legislative framework for care pertinent to your role.
- provide opportunities for you to develop key skills to prepare for further study and / or employment and lifelong learning.
- Encourage you to become active learners, thus learning through practice, rather than learning to practice.
- Provide you with the opportunity to explore methods of research relevant and appropriate to the care setting.
- Enhance your communication and interpersonal skills.
- Facilitate your understanding of leadership skills to enable you to respond flexibly to organisational and personal change.
- Encourage you to develop your enthusiasm for higher education learning.
- Ensure that you can contribute to meeting the challenges of enhancing health care delivery.
- Provide you with a recognised higher education qualification and higher apprenticeship, which provides the opportunity to access an honours degree and / or a professional qualification.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what apprentices graduating from the FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship] course will have been judged to have demonstrated to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of biological science including anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology to safely deliver person-centred care across the lifespan in diverse contexts.
2. Apply knowledge and understanding of human development, aging, death, social and behavioural sciences to the delivery of nursing practice across the lifespan.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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3. Recognise commonly encountered mental, physical, behavioural, and cognitive health conditions and apply their knowledge of these to the delivery of person-centred care across the lifespan.
4. Apply knowledge and understanding of co-morbidities' and complex nursing, health, and social care needs across the lifespan.
5. Apply the principles of health promotion, protection, prevention, and improvement to identify and respond to health priorities across diverse communities and the health-illness continuum.
6. Apply knowledge and understanding of local and national policy, legal, ethical, regulatory, and professional frameworks, and their application to contemporary nursing practice.
7. Apply evidence-based nursing practice to safely, effectively, with sensitivity and compassion deliver person centred care across the lifespan
8. Apply evidence-based practice to inform problem-solving, individual, and shared decision-making in diverse situations.
9. Evaluate reflective practices, to develop resilience and take responsibility for own learning and continuing professional development
10. Apply numeracy, literacy, digital and technology skills to own learning and professional clinical practice
11. Effectively utilise communication and relationship management skills which promote optimum engagement with people of all ages, with diverse needs and limitations
12. Work in partnership with people, families, and carers and as an active and equal partner in inter-professional team-working
13. Demonstrate professional values, competence, confidence and autonomous nursing practice enabling the delivery of safe and effective care underpinned by the NMC (2018) [Standards of proficiency for nursing associates](#)
14. Recognise own role in safeguarding vulnerable individuals and apply a professional duty of candour, to escalating concerns and learn from critical incidents to ensure public protection
15. Develop and apply leadership and team working skills to safely delegate care and contribute to risk monitoring and implementation of service improvements

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards.

- NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework
- Skills for Health
- Apprenticeship Standard for Nursing Associate (Health)
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to you online at the beginning of each academic year.

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Introduction to Professional Practice	20	Mandatory
	Inclusive Communication for Professional Practice	20	Mandatory
	Human Anatomy and Physiology	20	Mandatory
	Foundations of Acute and Long-Term Conditions	20	Mandatory
	Practice Learning 1	40	Mandatory
Level 5			
	Supporting the Safe Management of Medicines	20	Mandatory
	Holistic Health and Wellbeing Across the Lifespan	40	Mandatory
	Research and Leadership for Professional Practice	20	Mandatory
	Practice Learning 2	40	Mandatory

Awards

On successful completion of the course, apprentices will be awarded an a FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate). Apprentices who leave the course may be eligible for a Certificate in Health and Wellbeing on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered either face to face or online and is dependent on the apprentices' employer. A blended learning approach supports the course delivery. Apprentices studying full-time on FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship] should expect to have approximately 150 tutor-structured learning hours for level 4 and 150 tutor-structured learning hours for level 5. In accordance with the requirements for off-the-job training within the apprenticeship standard, apprentices will attend one day per week and tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lecture, presentation, and practical activity. In addition, apprentices will be expected to engage with about 100 hours of on-line learning activity for each level, and apprentices will normally be expected to undertake 15 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable apprentices to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 80% coursework (including essays, presentations, group work, and research projects) and 20% examinations.

Special Features

On successful completion of the FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship] apprentices are eligible to apply for registration with the NMC.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. NMC, HCPC).

Course Costs

Apprentices undertaking FdA Health and Wellbeing (Nursing Associate) [higher apprenticeship] will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and an Apprentice's employer. Apprentices will be required to sign a commitment statement before starting their apprenticeship which will detail the Apprentice's, employer's, and University's expectations under the apprenticeship agreement.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and the Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Framework. Academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).