

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Centre for Advancing Practice
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Standard Length of Course ³	3-5 Years part time
Intended Award	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice
Named Exit Awards	MSc Advancing Practice PgD Advancing Practice PgC Advancing Practice
Entry Requirements ⁴	• 120 credits at honours academic level or show an ability to work successfully at Masters level; • No less than two years post-registration experience with no less than six months experience in the relevant clinical speciality • Access to the relevant area of clinical practice with the support of their organisation on their advancing role; • Current registration with the relevant regulatory body e.g. NMC, HCPC. This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route).
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2027-28 academic year.

Course Summary

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice is a dynamic, multi-professional programme designed to develop experienced healthcare practitioners into advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) who can lead and transform care across a range of settings. Aligned with the Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice in England, the course integrates the four pillars of advanced practice: Clinical Practice, Leadership and Management, Education, and Research.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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 Taught Postgraduate 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](#).

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This programme equips students with the advanced knowledge, skills, and professional behaviours required to deliver safe, effective, and person-centred care in complex and evolving healthcare environments. Through a combination of academic study, clinical practice, and work-based learning, students will develop the confidence and competence to work autonomously, make high-level clinical decisions, and contribute to service innovation and improvement.

The MSc is suitable for registered healthcare professionals from a range of backgrounds, including nursing, midwifery, paramedicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and other allied health professions. It supports career progression into advanced roles and meets the educational requirements for recognition as an Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

Course Aims

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

1. Enable students to engage in critical debate of issues pertinent to the roles and responsibilities within advanced professional practice related to the care of adults, children and families and respond to them appropriately
2. Develop practitioners who are able to work in a professionally autonomous way demonstrating leadership within their area of practice and who are accountable for their own professional and clinical decisions
3. Enable students to critically evaluate personal and professional development needs in relation to advanced professional practice and implement appropriate responses
4. Enable students to meet the challenges of undertaking research at master's level within their field of practice
5. Develop an individual who is able to act as a role model and an educator to initiate change and management development opportunities within the clinical setting

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) 6.

Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills

1. Independently propose and evaluate alternative approaches to person-centred practice related to the care of adults, children and families
2. Critically appraise conceptual models, theories and vocabulary in the subjects covered within the course
3. Deal with complexity and contradiction in knowledge proffered for practice
4. Make sound judgments in the absence of complete data
5. Discern between different research methods and their suitability for undertaking research in specific areas of person-centred, compassionate care
6. Demonstrate systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of current

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problems within their field of practice

7. Synthesise information and ideas and develop a creative approach to problem solving in advanced practice
8. Engage with colleagues to discuss and critically debate a variety of perspectives
9. Critically evaluate the impact of health and social care policy on patients/clients /relevant others and health care practitioners and evaluate the culture of the specific clinical area of work in relation to the institution in which they work
10. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of a patient and accurately interpret findings in order to develop a suitable plan of person-centred, compassionate care
11. Critically evaluate current research and advance scholarship in their field of practice
12. Meet the challenge of undertaking research at this level

Subject-specific skills

1. Demonstrate expertise in a variety of contexts within their field of practice
2. Effectively engage others in the delivery of enhanced, person-centred care
3. Take responsibility for personal and professional development in relation to advanced practice
4. Work as an autonomous practitioner within an inter-professional team that values person-centred care
5. Demonstrate the ability to deliver an appropriate range of interventions based on the situation of the patient
6. Identify the scope and limitations of their role, including critically evaluating legal and ethical implications with respect to other members of staff, local and national policies and frameworks
7. Independently design, plan, manage and evaluate a research project pertinent to their field of professional practice
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the research findings to their Profession

Key/common skills

1. Critically analyse and appraise existing sources of information
2. Critically evaluate elements of management and leadership in relation to the advanced practice role
3. Demonstrate the ability to present complex arguments to a group in a competent manner
4. Demonstrate self-reflectivity and an awareness of the need for continuing professional development
5. Work collaboratively with others within health care and the wider environment to enhance the understanding of advanced clinical practice
6. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings
7. Demonstrate an ability to communicate complex ideas and arguments in writing to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- Health Education England Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England

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Course Structure

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁵
	Principles of Advanced Practice	30	M
	Integrated Assessment and Reasoning for Advanced Practitioners	30	M
	Leading & Managing Change	30	M
	Dissertation	60	M
	Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio	0	M
	Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing NB: <i>This module is advised for those in ACP roles, where the student's profession or employer requires it. For students that have already completed the prescribing qualification at Level 6 or for whom prescribing is not available to their registered profession, students will need to choose one alternative optional module from the list below. Academic advice and guidance will be offered to these students to facilitate the choice of relevant and appropriate modules from the departments wider Master's provision.</i>	30	O
	Coaching Within Healthcare	30	O
	Principles of Cancer Care	30	O
	Improving Practice through Application of Learning	30	O
	Professional Advocate for Healthcare Practitioners	30	O

Awards

On successful completion of 180 level 7 credits including all mandatory modules, you will achieve an MSc Advanced Clinical Practice. If you have achieved 180 credits but do not pass the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio, then you will receive the exit award of MSc Advancing Practice. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Advancing Practice on successful completion of the Principles of Advanced Practice, Integrated Assessment and Reasoning for Advanced Practitioners, Leading & Managing Change modules, and a 30-credit optional module; or a PgC Advancing Practice on successful completion of the Principles of Advanced Practice, and Integrated Assessment and Reasoning for Advanced Practitioners modules.

⁵ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying part-time on MSc Advanced Clinical Practice are likely to have approximately 54 tutor structured learning hours per semester during years one and two of the course. During the dissertation in year three, 20 hours of individual supervision will be available to students. Tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10 hours of independent study in an average week during years one and two of the course. During year three of the course and the dissertation, students will be expected to undertake approximately 20 hours of independent study in a week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

Assessment across the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice is designed to reflect the depth, complexity and autonomy expected at Level 7. A diverse range of assessment methods enables students to demonstrate advanced critical thinking, clinical reasoning and professional capability, while adapting to varied academic and practice-based assessment styles. Each assessment strategy is aligned with the intended learning outcomes of its module and with the four pillars of Advanced Clinical Practice. Throughout the course, students will engage with written assignments, seminar presentations, examinations and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), appropriate to developing and evidencing advanced clinical competence.

During the final year, students focus on the design, development and completion of an independent dissertation alongside the production of the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio, which together form the capstone assessment for demonstrating readiness for advanced, autonomous practice.

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 specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Advanced Clinical Practice will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Part-time UK	£1,710 per 30 credit module
Part-time EU/International	£2,749.8 per 30 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

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Academic Framework and Regulations

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