

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship]
Awarding Body	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
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 to 5 years part-time
Intended Award	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice
Named Exit Awards	MSc 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 relevant area of clinical practice with support of their organisation on their advancing role • Current registration with the relevant regulatory body e.g. NMC, HCPC; • Evidence of achievement of English and Mathematics at a minimum of GCSE Grade 4 (or Equivalent) or Functional Skills Level 2. 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

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

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

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](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2027-28 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This course is designed to facilitate the development of knowledge and skills related to advanced clinical practice. Course development has been informed by and mapped to nationally accepted frameworks for advanced clinical practice (Health Education England, 2018) and the Integrated Degree Apprenticeship Standard (Skills for Health, 2018) thus ensuring that the course is relevant to contemporary practice. Evidence of successful completion of this course can support you in evidencing your learning and development when applying for career development and advancement in roles associated with an advanced level of clinical practice.

Course Aims

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

1. Enable apprentices 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 apprentices to critically evaluate personal and professional development needs in relation to advanced professional practice and implement appropriate responses
4. Enable apprentices 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

It is important to set out clearly what you can expect to gain from studying on this course. These expectations are presented in terms of *learning outcomes*, i.e. statements defining areas of knowledge, understanding and specific abilities and skills you will be able to demonstrate on completion of the course.

On completion of the master's degree, students will be able to: **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

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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 problems within their field of practice
7. Synthesise information and ideas and develop a creative approach to problem solving in advanced clinical 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 research findings to their

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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 issues 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 / Apprenticeship Standards:

- Skills for Health (2018) Degree Apprenticeship Standard – Advanced Clinical Practitioner
- Health Education England (2017) Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England

Course Structure

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] comprises modules at levels 7.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁶
Level 7			
	Principles of Advanced Practice	30	M
	Integrated Assessment and reasoning for Advanced Practitioners	30	M
	Dissertation	60	M

⁶ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

	Apprenticeship Assessment for Advanced Clinical Practice	20	M
	Project Initiation Document for Service Improvement in Advanced Practice	10	M
	Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio	0	M
	Non-Medical Independent and/or Supplementary Prescribing (V300) 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 department's wider Master's provision.</i>	30	O
	Optional Modules:		
	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 the above modules totalling 180 credits the student will be awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice. Students who complete 180 credits of the modules previously listed but do not pass the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio will be awarded an MSc Advancing Practice.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Attendance is usually required for one full study day on alternate weeks although this may vary slightly depending on the module being studied. During the apprenticeship, 20% of the students usual working hours will be given as time for study towards modules and the assessment involved in these. Students will be required to complete tripartite reviews on a termly basis. These will be carried between the student, the employer and the University of Suffolk. In general terms, this will equate to one working day a week being allocated for study purposes. In between the study day attendance at the University on alternate weeks, students will be involved in indirect study activities with the course team. This may include learning activities which supplement the core content and link to the students area of practice, for example, to explore the rationale for a service policy change. These will be delivered via the OLE Brightspace with support and guidance available from the course

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

team. The team will offer support and guidance for self-directed study activities throughout the programme.

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, apprentices 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.

Apprenticeship Assessment

All apprentices on the course undertake an Apprenticeship Assessment (AA) to complete their Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Degree). Apprentices will be expected to undertake the AA as part of their degree. To be eligible for AA, apprentices will need to have completed 160 credits of the course and have their employer confirm that they have met the knowledge, skills and behaviour as set out in the apprenticeship standard and confirm their readiness for the AA. The AA will be delivered by the University and will include 50% presentation and 50% exam. Following successful completion of the AA apprentices will achieve their Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Degree).

Special Features

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] course meets the requirements of the Advanced Clinical Practitioner (degree) apprenticeship standard.

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 [degree apprenticeship] will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and a student's employer. Apprentices will be required to sign a commitment statement before starting their apprenticeship which will detail the student's, employer's, and University's expectations under the apprenticeship agreement.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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](#).