

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing
Named Exit Awards	BSc Health Studies DipHE Health Studies CertHE Health Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical offer: 112 UCAS Tariff points – equivalent to: BBC (A – Level), DMM (BTEC), Access 30 credits at Merit or above, three GCSES grades 4 and above, including Mathematics and English (or equivalent). For all candidates: Satisfactory Occupational Health clearance Satisfactory Enhanced DBS check
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	B760

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year.

Course Summary

The 3-year programme will enable you to develop the knowledge, attitude and skills essential to register as a Mental Health Nurse. Nursing is a continually evolving profession, so a key part of this course is about developing the skills to adapt to new situations and to become a resilient practitioner. The course is divided into theoretical (50%) and practice components (50%). The practice learning and assessments take place in a range of clinical

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 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](#).

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placements, which are real life setting where you will learn and interact with mental health service users and clinical staff from a range of professions.

The design of the course has been, and will continue to be, determined through the close, collaborative working relationships between the University of Suffolk, Service Partners, and Service Users. The purpose of the programme is to support your development in order to meet the requirements for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Mental Health Nurse. You will express appropriate values, possess the required knowledge and be able to demonstrate the necessary skills when called upon to do so. In addition, you will see learning as a lifelong requirement and be willing to take responsibility for professional leadership and management, not only in clinical practice, but also in whatever forum provides the opportunity.

The curriculum has been designed to be able to respond to changing needs, developments, priorities and expectations in health, healthcare practice and education. It will ensure you appreciate the expectation that you will provide the highest quality care, whatever the environment, whilst acknowledging the opportunities and challenges presented by change. This curriculum will ensure you develop the skills and motivation required to assume the leadership function of the newly qualified nurse.

Students consistently tell us that they feel they are a very different person by the end of the course. You will have experiences that are difficult to find in any other profession and will be privileged to be invited into some of the most profound times in people's lives. To do this well, you will need to be open to challenging your own and others' assumptions and to consistently question the reasons behind your own and others' practice. You will learn about, and develop these skills, in university, and you will put them into practice while on placement, eventually reaching the stage where you are ready to become an autonomous practitioner

Course Aims

1. To provide high-quality, safe, and effective care—encompassing physical and mental health to children, young people, adults, and their families, tailored to individual needs and underpinned by evidence-based practice and professional standards.
2. To demonstrate integrity, empathy, and resilience by upholding the professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities of nursing, and acting as advocates for patients and service users—including those with complex mental health needs—across diverse and changing societies.
3. To promote health, wellbeing, and recovery—both physical and mental—by working creatively and collaboratively with service users, families, and multi-agency teams, recognising the cultural, social, and economic factors that influence care.
4. To foster leadership, critical thinking, and reflective practice, empowering nurses to challenge systems, drive continuous improvement, and act as role models in modern healthcare environments, including mental health services.
5. To inspire professional curiosity, courage, and lifelong learning, equipping nurses to adapt, innovate, and advocate for themselves and others—across all fields of nursing—while striving for excellence in academic, clinical, and mental health practice.

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The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing 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 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁵.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Critically evaluate the complexities of mental health care, including dual diagnosis, pharmacological considerations, and biopsychosocial factors, to inform appropriate and person-centred interventions
2. Synthesise and apply contemporary research and evidence to support clinical reasoning and decision-making in complex care scenarios
3. Demonstrate increasing autonomy in clinical practice, exercising professional judgement within multidisciplinary teams in preparation for registration. Critically examine the impact of marginalisation and systemic barriers on access to mental health services, and propose inclusive, evidence-informed strategies to promote equitable care
4. Critically examine the impact of marginalisation and systemic barriers on access to mental health services, and propose inclusive, evidence-informed strategies to promote equitable care
5. Analyse the influence of societal, political, and healthcare system structures on mental health service delivery and advocate for responsive, ethical practice. Coordinate and manage care for individuals with complex needs, demonstrating initiative and minimal reliance on supervision
6. Coordinate and manage care for individuals with complex needs, demonstrating initiative and minimal reliance on supervision
7. Apply leadership and management theories in practice settings, taking responsibility for team coordination, resource utilisation, and the delivery of safe, effective care.
8. Adapt leadership and management approaches to suit diverse clinical contexts, promoting collaborative working and service improvement.
9. Successfully complete Part 1/2/3 of the clinical practice assessment documentation, evidencing achievement of required competencies and readiness for professional registration.

Course Design

The design of the course has been, and will continue to be, determined through the close, collaborative working relationship between the University of Suffolk, Service Partners and Service Users. The purpose of the programme is to support the development of the student in order to meet the requirements for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Mental Health Nurse.

This course will provide the knowledge, attitude and skills essential to register as an Mental Health Nurse. Nursing is a continually evolving profession, so a key part of this course is about developing the skills to adapt to new situations and ensure the student becomes a resilient

⁵ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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practitioner. The course is divided into theoretical (50%) and practice components (50%). The practice learning and assessments takes place in a range of clinical placements.

The curriculum has been designed to be able to respond to changing needs, developments, priorities and expectations in health, healthcare practice and education. It will ensure the student can appreciate the expectation that they will provide the highest quality care in whatever environment acknowledging the opportunities and challenges presented by change. Nursing has not always appreciated the leadership function of the newly qualified nurse. This curriculum will ensure students develop the skills and motivation required to assume this responsibility. The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards:

- NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education 2018a;
- NMC Standards for student supervision and assessment 2018b;
- NMC Standards for pre-registration nursing programmes 2018c;
- NMC Future nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses 2018d

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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 ⁶
Level 4			
	Foundations of Professional Nursing Practice	30	M
	Anatomy, Physiology and essential nursing practice	30	M
	Principles of health promotion	30	M
	Nursing Practice 1	30	M
Level 5			
	Therapeutic Approaches and Interventions for mental health Nurses	30	M
	Recovery Focused Mental Health Care	30	M
	Medications Management for Mental Health Nurses	30	M
	Nursing Practice Year 2	30	M
Level 6			
	Nursing assessment and management of complex and deteriorating patients	30	M
	Leading, Co-ordinating Care and Preparation for Practice	30	M
	Dissertation/Major Project	30	M
	Nursing Practice Part 3	30	M

⁶ 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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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BSc Health Studies on successful completion of 300 credits, including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and at least 60 credits at level 6, a DipHE Health Studies on successful completion of 240 credits at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Health Studies on successful completion of 120 credits at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at The University Ipswich Campus. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing are likely to have approximately 340 direct contact hours and 485 self-directed hours for level 4, 270 contact hours and 518 self-directed hours for level 5 and 191 contact hours and 521 self-directed hours for level 6. The direct contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, simulated skills sessions and self-directed hours include guided learning using the online learning platform Brightspace. In addition, tutorials and guided group discussions will form part of the self-directed hours. Students will also be required to participate in clinical placements involving 37.5 hours per week of allocated clinical time. Placements will be arranged by the University. Students will normally be expected to undertake 486 hours of independent study at level 4, 518 hours of independent study at level 5 and 521 hours of independent study at level 6 but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

Course Assessment A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students 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 comprise of summative and formative coursework including essays, reports, presentations, group work and a dissertation; summative and formative examinations and ongoing assessments of clinical practice.

Special Features

The BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing course is approved by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC). In achieving this award, students have completed the NMC required number of practice hours and will be eligible for first level entry to the NMC professional register.

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 and are registered with the NMC.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,790 per year
Part-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Full-time International	£18,870 per year

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Part-time International	Not applicable
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Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the DBS page of the [Disclosure and Barring Service checks \(DBS\) | University of Suffolk](#)

Students may be eligible to claim for travel and car parking costs whilst on placement; however, these are paid retrospectively. More information can be found via the NHS Learning Support Fund webpage: <https://media.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/campaigns/nhs-learning-support-fund-hei-toolkit>

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](#).