

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	Approved by the 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 (Hons) Health Studies DipHE Health Studies CertHE Health Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical offer: 96 UCAS Tariff points – equivalent to: CCC (A – Level), MMM (BTEC) Access to HE Diploma 30 credits at Merit or above Five GCSES grades 4 and above, including Mathematics and English (or equivalent). For all candidates: Satisfactory Occupational Health clearance Satisfactory Enhanced DBS check Two satisfactory references
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 2025-26 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The purpose of the course is to prepare students for nursing practice that meets the professional requirements of a nurse to join the Mental Health Nursing register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

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

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Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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

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In order to meet the needs of a diverse population with mental health needs, students will develop contemporary knowledge and values and demonstrate these necessary skills when required to do so. In addition, students will see learning as a lifelong responsibility and be willing to demonstrate this learning as an evidence base in order to advocate for clients in their care and to take the profession forward.

Course Aims

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

- Care for people to optimise their own health needs;
- Deliver safe, compassionate and effective nursing care;
- Inspire confidence in the profession;
- Make decisions on complex care needs based on a sound evidence base.

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 successful completion of this course you will be able to:

1. Manage self and others in practice in accordance with the NMC Code (2018) and ethical, legal frameworks that ensures the primacy of service user interest, respecting wellbeing and human rights.
2. Lead the delivery of innovative, evidence based practice within planned progressive and individualised care plans, which generates new understanding of the theoretical foundations of nursing care.
3. Deploy techniques of analysis and enquiry to nursing practice.
4. Appreciate uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.
5. Show a critical appreciation of the principles of good governance in the management, leadership and development of care.
6. Demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility in your own personal and professional development.
7. Demonstrate a commitment to furthering the professional status of nursing.
8. Show a critical appreciation of the principles of good governance in the management, leadership and development of care.
9. Actively pursue a direction of personal, professional development that supports improvements in practice for self and other members of the interprofessional team.
10. Achieve the NMC (2018) competencies for entry to the NMC register as a Mental Health Nurse.

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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 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.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**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			
	Introduction to Professional Values for Mental Health Nurses	40	M
	Early Intervention to Optimise Mental Health and Wellbeing	20	M
	Creative Interventions in Mental Health to Support Person Centred Care	20	M
	Fundamental Biosciences and Physical Health Care for Mental Health Nurses	40	M
	Mental Health Nursing Practice: Part 1	0	M
Level 5			
	Service User Led Assessment, Care Planning and Recovery	40	M
	Research for Mental Health Nurses	20	M
	Medication Management for Mental Health Nurses	20	M
	Core Psychological approaches and Counselling Skills for Mental Health Nurses	40	M
	Mental Health Nursing Practice: Part 2	0	M
Level 6			
	Leading and Managing Care in an interprofessional context	20	M
	Politics and Contemporary Nursing Practice	20	M
	Delivering Complex Care	40	M
	Dissertation	40	M
	Mental Health Nursing Practice: Part 3	0	M

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 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. Students who successfully complete 360 credits but do not pass practice may be eligible for a BSc (Hons) Health Studies.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at The University Ipswich Campus. Placements are provided across a range of settings in the Eastern Region. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing are likely to have approximately 386 direct contact hours and 814 self-directed

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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hours for level 4, 300 contact hours and 900 self-directed hours for level 5 and 250 contact hours and 950 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 spend 10 days of the allocated placement time each year undertaking Simulated Placement Learning. Other than for a potential 3-week optional elective placement in year three. Students will normally be expected to undertake independent study each week; this is dependent on module requirements.

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 the BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,535 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£18,380 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

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 [University of Suffolk website](#)

Students are reimbursed for travelling and car parking costs whilst on placement, however, these are paid retrospectively. Students are likely to incur other costs for learning materials such as printing, books and stationary.

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](#).