

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing [degree apprenticeship] (2 year)
Awarding Body	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure ²	Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) 180 Credits (120 credits at Level 4 and 60 Credits at Level 5) Level 5: 60 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing
Named Exit Awards	BSc (Hons) Health Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	<p>RPL of credits from a foundation degree in a relevant field of practice. Consideration of prior learning from an undergraduate degree in a relevant field. Mapping to demonstrate learning from Level 4 and Level 5 Part 1 [of the 4 year apprenticeship] has been completed and the credit requirements for these modules have been met.</p> <p>As apprentices come to the 2 year BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult and Mental Health) with recognition of prior learning (RPL) that exceeds the Level 2 English and maths requirement we are changing this requirement for entry to the course. Each learner by virtue of their Foundation Degree will have written at Level 4 and 5 and demonstrated their English requirements in theory and practice. Each learner will also have undertaken a Level 5 medicine management module where their maths skills are tested.</p> <p>The Trusts will now be able to decide whether adult learners over the age of 19 when they start their apprenticeship</p>

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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	<p>course will need to complete a level 2 English and maths qualification (equivalent to GCSE) in order to pass it. Such candidates that this applies too, will have a minimum Foundation Degree or equivalent.</p> <p>For all candidates Satisfactory Occupational Health clearance Satisfactory Enhanced DBS check</p>
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	Not Applicable

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing (Degree Apprenticeship) course. The information provided is accurate for apprentices entering level 5 in the 2024-25 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

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

In order to meet the needs of a diverse population with mental health needs, apprentices will develop contemporary knowledge and values and demonstrate these necessary skills when required to do so. In addition, apprentices 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

The following statements define what apprentices 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 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

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 privacy 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.

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

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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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.

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 apprentice in order to meet the requirements for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) 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 ensure the apprentice 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 apprentice 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 apprentices 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 5 and 6, following RPL for 120 credits at Level 4 and 60 credits at Level 5.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 5 (months 1-8)			

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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	Service User Led Assessment, Care Planning and Recovery	20	M
	Core Psychological Approaches and Counselling Skills for Mental Health Nurses	40	M
	Mental Health Nursing Practice: Part 2	0	M
Level 6 (months 9-24)			
	Leading and Managing Care in the 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, apprentices will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing and will be eligible to register with the NMC as a Mental Health Nurse. Apprentices who successfully complete 360 credits but do not pass the Mental Health Nursing Practice element may be eligible for a BSc (Hons) Health Studies award but will not be eligible to register with the NMC.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University's Ipswich campus. Placements are provided across a range of settings in the Eastern Region. Apprentices are likely to have approximately 152 contact hours at level 5 and 232 contact hours at level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, simulated skills sessions. Apprentices 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. Apprentices will normally be expected to undertake 339 hours of guided learning or independent study at level 5 and 734 hours of guided learning or independent study at level 6.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used in 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

On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing (degree apprenticeship), apprentices are eligible to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Mental Health Nurse.

End Point Assessment

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The End Point Assessment (EPA) is fully integrated into the BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing [degree apprenticeship] and assesses whether apprentices have passed the apprenticeship, based on the professional knowledge, skills and behaviours. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments as part of the EPA.

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

Apprentices undertaking BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing 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.

Apprentices are expected to pay their travel expenses to and from placement. Some Trusts may reimburse apprentices' travel costs however it is up to apprentices to liaise with their Trust in this matter.

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](#).