

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
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	BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Person-Centred Counselling CertHE Person-Centred Counselling
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or above) • BBC (A-Level) • DMM (BTEC) • Merit (T Level) • Pass in Access to HE Diploma GCSE English and Maths at grade C/4 or above. Students aged 21 or over at the start of their course are regarded as mature students. The University of Suffolk offers a flexible admissions policy for mature students, which takes into account life and work experience. Submit a 1,000-word essay. This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route).
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)
UCAS Code	B942

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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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year¹.

Course Summary

The course provides high-quality professional counsellor training. The course content offers students a supportive and stimulating learning experience. The course supports students in acquiring the supervised placement hours required for accreditation with the British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapists. This course is delivered by experienced, practising person-centred counsellors and offers a wide range of learning experiences including experiential, theoretical, placements, group and individual work. There is a high level of individual tutor support and assessments are varied. The course offers opportunities for personal development and is designed and implemented in accordance with the British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP) requirements.

Course Aims

1. To promote the development of the student as a professional, reflective, autonomous, competent counsellor, aware of legal and ethical boundaries and able to take responsibilities and make sound judgments across a range of contexts.
2. To enhance employability by developing key and graduate skills in conjunction with specific work-place competencies.
3. To provide graduates with knowledge and skills which are relevant to regional counselling provision across service user groups [i.e. local authority, NHS, independent private and voluntary organisations], to meet local, regional, and national employment needs.
4. To create a strong foundation for lifelong learning and continuing professional development.
5. To meet the demands of a full-time professional education in the person-centred approach.
6. To prepare students to practice as person-centred counsellors, and to use the person-centred approach in other fields.
7. To improve training and education opportunities within the East Anglia region in the growing field of health and social care.
8. To meet the training requirements of the BACP in terms of academic learning, skills' training, placements and personal development and thereby prepare students for accreditation.
9. To provide progression with respect to further educational, professional and personal development pathways.
10. To provide opportunities that facilitate widening participation by local/non-standard entrants to study counselling and become professionals in this field.
11. To encourage cognitive development and autonomous learning.
12. To encourage emotional development and self-awareness which is a necessary requirement to a career in counselling.

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

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Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Person-centred Counselling 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 Level 6 you will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate abstract concepts, data, and skills contributing to decision-making and question-framing within the context of person-centred group work and theories of group dynamics.
2. Demonstrate through group facilitation skills and group membership personal responsibility, initiative, decision-making in complex/unpredictable contexts.
3. Apply research competencies, methods and established techniques of enquiry and analysis to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge and understanding, in the initiation development and completion of a research project.
4. Communicate research findings (information, ideas, problems and solutions) to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
5. Evidence an increasingly critical and evaluative attitude towards and perception of knowledge and of implementation of main person-centred methods of enquiry and critically evaluate ways used to solve problems within the approach.
6. Critically evaluate own learning, personal development, practice and competency for duration of course.
7. Communicate with increasing competency, information, argument, analysis, perceptions, emotions and attitudes in written form and orally in a range of settings, to evidence knowledge, understanding, critical evaluation and solutions to complex problems.
8. Employ effectively skills of time and resource management in periods of self-directed study, showing initiative and judgement in use of academic libraries, archives, and range of appropriate electronic media for research purposes.
9. Manage own learning as means of developing the skills, attitudes and behaviours germane to life-long learning.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Subject Benchmark Statements and Professional Standards:

QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:

- Counselling and Psychotherapy (2022)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2024) Professional Standards:
- BACP Course Accreditation 'Gold Book' criteria

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Person-centred Counselling 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.

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

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	Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Level 4 modules			
	The Person-centred Approach	40	M
	Foundational Therapeutic Competencies	20	R
	Professional Context	20	R
	Comparative Study	20	R
	Fitness to Practice	20	M
Level 5 modules			
	Continuing Personal Development/Supervision	20	R
	Research	20	M
	Person-centred Tribes and their Evolution	20	R
	Counselling Practice	40	R
	Specific Client Issues	20	R
Level 6 modules			
	Working with Groups	40	R
	Dissertation	40	M
	Self-evaluation	40	R

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Person-Centred Counselling on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and likewise may be eligible for a CertHE Person-Centred Counselling on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at Level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth). Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling are likely to have approximately 8-12 contact hours per week. Thus, although technically full time, in practice attendance consists of 1.5 days at Level 4, likewise at Level 5 and one day at Level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, discussions, workshop sessions, small group work and tutorials.

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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Students will also be required to participate in 100 hours of work placement during levels 5 and 6. Students will be expected to find their own placement with support from the course team. Students will normally be expected to undertake 800 hours of independent study per year, but should be prepared for weekly workloads to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

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 be 100% coursework (including essays, presentations, session analysis, professional logs, reflective journals, case studies, portfolios, self and group evaluations and a dissertation).

Special Features

On completion of the BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling course, graduates will have also gained at least 100 hours of counselling practice in supervised placement(s).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and all staff are current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Person-Centred Counselling will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	790 per year
Full-time International	£15,900 per year

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

Students will require individual supervision whilst in placement and also need to join an appropriate professional body i.e. NCPS, BACP. This will incur expenditure.

Please note that from Level 5 you will require a placement which you will need to source independently of the college. ***Please be aware that depending on the organisation you may require some form of DBS check.*** You will need to arrange this directly with the placement provider, and cover any costs involved.

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](#)