

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care) [progression route]
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 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years part-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care)
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: Diploma of Higher Education (240 credits with at least 120 credits at level 5) or equivalent in an appropriate subject At least 2 years post-registration experience with no less than 6 months of this being in the Critical Care Speciality Hold current registration with an appropriate professional body e.g. NMC, Health Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	n/a

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care) [progression route] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 6 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This pathway is appropriate for experienced practitioners currently working in Critical Care practice settings. Following two years of post-registration experience with no less than six months of this being in the Critical Care speciality, practitioners can access this pathway to consolidate knowledge gained to date as well as facilitating the development of knowledge and skills in regard to management of acutely ill patients to a specialist level. Development of these knowledge and skills will allow practitioners to explore and develop leadership skills to inform and innovate clinical practice in Critical Care practice. Assessment will comprise of a theoretical component, as well as a core competency and specialist competency package related to Critical Care, which is assessed at the point of care delivery. Completion of this

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#)

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

programme will make the individual eligible for registration with the NMC as a Specialist Practitioner.

Course Aims

- Develop practitioners who are able to work competently within the inter-professional team and promote patient centred care
- Develop practitioners who can critically analyse and interpret a variety of data and information, synthesising this into a management plan reflecting the complex needs of the patient, their family and the care setting
- Develop practitioners able to reflect and evaluate the clinical effectiveness of the care provided to an individual and their family, giving careful consideration to communication, legal, ethical and professional issues
- Develop an individual able to act not only as a role model and educator but also as a practitioner able to initiate and manage practice development opportunities for themselves and others appropriate to the care setting

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care) [progression route] 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.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the acutely ill patient and appropriately interpret findings in order to develop a suitable plan of care
2. Identify the scope and limitations of their role, including critically analysing legal and ethical implications with respect to other members of staff, local and national policies and frameworks

Mental or cognitive skills

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the management plan for the patient, family and others involved
4. Critically analyse and evaluate the culture of the specific clinical area and the wider institution in which they practice

Subject Specific and Practical Skills

5. Communicate and document clearly and effectively
6. Deliver an appropriate range of interventions based upon the situation for the patient

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Key Skills

7. Act as a role model and educational resource
8. Work as an autonomous practitioner within an inter-professional team that values patient centred care

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark, Professional Standards and NMC Competency Frameworks:

QAA Benchmarks:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Healthcare Programmes

Professional Standards:

- NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework

NMC Competency Frameworks:

- NMC Standards for Specialist Education and Practice

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care) [progression route] comprises modules at level 6.

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 ⁷
Level 6			
	Acute and Critical Care Practice in Context (Critical Care pathway)	60	M
	Evidence-Based Practice Dissertation	40	M
	Preparation for Mentorship	20	R
	If Mentorship module has been completed then students should choose from one of the following:		
	Counselling Skills	20	O
	Ethics, Philosophy and Law in Healthcare Practice	20	O
	Infection Control and Blood Borne Virus	20	O

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care). This award incorporates the NMC Specialist Practitioner – Adult Nursing qualification.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Delivery

Students are expected to attend the University for all the lectures, seminars, tutorials and other planned teaching, learning and assessment activities prescribed for their course. As a student of the University of Suffolk you are part of an academic community and are expected to be an active participant in the learning experience. As well as timetabled classes and individual tutorials, you will need to do a substantial amount of individual study. You need to plan to do about 200 hours (including classes) for each 20-credit module.

Course Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of academic life, and certainly something you should not be afraid of. The assessments you will encounter on your course will be varied, to enable you to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment strategy is one in which a range of evidence is required to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes and clinical competence using a variety of assessment methods within a formative and summative structure. The student assessment during the first academic year of study is based on a ratio of 50% in practice and 50% in theory. Assessment of theory will mostly be through coursework (essays, seminar presentations and practice competency portfolios) with one module having an exam. The assessment reflects the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy for Programmes in the Higher Education sector. The University of Suffolk policy on the infringement of the assessment regulations also applies to this programme.

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) Acute Healthcare Practice (Critical Care) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	Not applicable
Part-time International	£2,180 per 20 credit module

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

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](#).