

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MA Health and Social Care Studies
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years part-time
Intended Award	MA Health and Social Care Studies
Named Exit Awards	PgD Health and Social Care Studies PgC Health and Social Care Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: Currently be working in the field of health or social care Hold an approved degree or other equivalent qualification Provide evidence of adequate training and ability to undertake level 7 study
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA Health and Social Care Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This programme of study has been designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of health and social care professionals including Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors, Allied Health Professionals and those working in the field of social care practice.

Students will be supported to develop a critical awareness of current problems and new insights at the forefront of their professional practice. Students will examine care development and delivery from their own professional standpoint and also take account of how other disciplines challenge and contribute to the quality of care delivery.

This MA programme emphasises flexibility, and maximises choice, so that learning opportunities meet the needs of your developing role.

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 Taught Postgraduate 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](#).

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Course Aims

- To advance students' knowledge and critical awareness of current health and social care theory and practice within intra and inter professional contexts
- To promote a high level of autonomy and self-direction applicable to their own area of expertise that incorporates a strong emphasis on evidence based care
- To enable students to apply their knowledge in the evaluation of clinical practice and lead in complex care decisions to improve safety and quality for those who use services
- To develop a range of academic and intellectual skills reflecting the rigour required at level 7, to include research and independent scholarly activity to ensure the dissemination of service innovation and promotion of professional development
- To enable the student to demonstrate initiative, originality and leadership in problem solving and decision making relevant to their own sphere of practice

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA Health and Social Care Studies 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 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding and awareness of knowledge of the current issues and dilemmas impacting health and social care practice
2. Critically reflect upon the impact of health and social care policy on service users/ family/ carers, relevant others and self
3. Demonstrate systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the current issues and dilemmas within their field of practice
4. Synthesise knowledge and understanding through the evaluation of contemporary research and other sources of evidence

Mental or cognitive skills

5. Develop views and arguments to discuss and debate the impact of policy and evidence on care
6. Actively engage with colleagues to discuss and critically debate a variety of issues and perspectives
7. Interpret a range of theoretical frameworks and concepts to enable original application of knowledge to both theory and practice

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

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Subject Specific Skills and Practical Skills

8. Critically reflect upon the scope and limitations of their role within integrated practice with respect to local / national policies and frameworks
9. Disseminate effective practice that supports the delivery of evidence based interventions within health and social care
10. Identify the legal and ethical implications and challenges of working within integrated care
11. Take a lead in the promoting and educating of others to embed evidence based practice into integrated care provision
12. Plan, execute and manage a research project relevant to health and/or social care
13. Interpret the significance of their individual research findings to the wider health and social care agenda to inform the evidence based care of their client group

Key skills

14. Critically evaluate and appraise theory and practice
15. Work with others to enhance the understanding of professional practice, reflecting on own contribution to the profession and practice
16. Critically evaluate and appraise existing sources of information to facilitate problem solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings
17. Work collaboratively with others to enhance the understanding of professional practice
18. Apply the principles of critical self-reflexivity to enable personal growth and evaluate their need for ongoing professional development
19. Effectively disseminate knowledge by communicating a range of complex issues and arguments to a range of peers, colleagues and non-professionals in a confident and competent manner

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark and NHS Competency Frameworks:

- QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
- NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (2004)

Course Structure

The MA Health and Social Care Studies comprises modules at level 7.

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.

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Transformation for Integrated Health and Social Care	40	M
	Effective Leadership	20	M
	Research Methods	20	M
	Dissertation	60	M
	Plus 40 credits from the following: (all offered yearly)		
	Globalisation	20	O
	Organisational Psychology	20	O
	Practical Ethics and Law	20	O
	Supporting Practice Learning	20	O
	Workplace Coaching	20	O
	Dementia Care for Health and Social Care Professionals	20	O
	Palliative Care for Health and Social Care Professionals	20	O

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MA Health and Social Care Studies. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Health and Social Care Studies on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC Health and Social Care Studies on successful completion of 60 credits.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered on the Ipswich campus. Students studying part-time on MA Health and Social Care Studies are likely to have approximately 30 - 50 contact hours depending on the module being studied. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activity. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this 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 will be by coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

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.

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

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Course Costs

Students undertaking MA Health and Social Care Studies will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Part-time UK/EU	£825 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	Not applicable
Part-time International	£1,120 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 Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).