

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians V300
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Health Care Professions Council (HCPC)
Credit Structure ²	40 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	Six months part-time
Intended Award	Independent and/or supplementary Non-medical prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with appropriate Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) e.g. NMC/HCPC (nurses must be first level nurses) • Three years patient orientated post registration experience in a hospital, community or primary care setting for nurses and allied health professionals, for nurses the preceding year must be in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing after the course • Identified service need for non-medical prescribing • Written support from employing trust prescribing lead • Identified Designated Medical Practitioner (Doctor) (DMP) for 78/90 hours practice supervision • A first degree or proven ability to study at masters level • All employer responsibilities are met (see pre-course information pack for guidance)A current

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](#)

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	DBS check (within 3 years from the start of your programme) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written evidence of continuing professional development (CPD)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians V300 course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The V300 course enables Nurses, Midwives, Radiographers, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists and Dietitians to acquire the non-medical prescribing qualification in independent and/or supplementary prescribing depending on the legislation covering each professional group.

On successful completion of the programme registrant name will be put forward as appropriate for a recordable prescribing qualification with their specific Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB):

Nursing - Nursing & Midwifery council (NMC)

Allied health professions- Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC)

This multi-professional course is offered at two levels: Honours level (6) and Masters Level (7). Teaching is delivered in Ipswich and both levels study alongside each other.

Students are required to attend the university campus for 26 academic days. You will be in school approximately 1 day per week. A small proportion of the 26 days are allocated as “self-directed leaning days/online learning”, the nature of these will be explained at the start of the course and although you will not be required to attend campus on those particular days they are an integral part of the campus based learning so you do not go into work.

In addition, the equal practice theory split of this course means you are required to organise practice based mentoring for the duration of the course. This support is essential to your development as a prescriber and must be provided by a Medical Doctor, known as the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP). The regulators specify the required time for this practice mentoring, it is 78 hours for Nurses and 90 hours for Allied health professionals. This equates to 12 days or a half day a week for the duration of the course.

The PSRBs set the standards for the educational requirements of non-medical prescribing and this informs the curriculum. Although these requirements do not call for teaching on specific clinical areas, some specifics are included, but the overall focus is on applying the principles of prescribing to the students own specialist clinical area. It is expected therefore, that students will embrace a high degree of autonomy to apply these principles to the context of their current or future practice. In school a wide variety of key theoretical areas are timetabled, to re-iterate the emphasis is on the application of prescribing principles; the first half of the course largely looks at the developing foundation for prescribing so to give some examples: background legislation, standards and ethics, prescribing pressures, evidence

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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based decisions, theories of consultation, concordance. The second half of the course looks more at the application of prescribing in some common clinical areas that most prescribers will come across regardless of their specialist areas of practice, so for example; cardiac, mental health, pain, reproductive health special groups (inc children/elderly).

A variety of teaching methods are used including lecture, enquiry based learning, discussion, workshop, experiential learning and case study formats.

The course has been designed to facilitate students in the acquisition of a comprehensive knowledge base on which to base critical decisions and clinical judgements in the application of prescribing practice. Students therefore require a high level of support within both the academic and practice setting in order to acquire mastery of prescribing practice that within their specialist area. The role of the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) as supervisor within the students practice area is paramount to achieving success on the programme. The achievement of practice prescribing competencies is fundamental to this recordable qualification. Therefore the academic team work in *partnership* with the designated medical practitioners.

Course Aims

- Prepare Nurses, Midwives and Pharmacists, Radiographers, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists and Dietitians to meet the required regulatory standards in order to act as Independent and/ or Supplementary prescribers.
- Extend opportunities for critical appraisal of their existing practice whilst achieving prescribing competencies in the workplace.
- Enable students to engage in comprehensive enquiry with specific identified aspects of their prescribing practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians V300 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

1. Evaluate effective history taking, assessment and consultation skills with patients/clients, parents and carers to inform working/differential diagnoses
2. Integrate a shared approach to decision making taking account of patients/carers wishes, values, religion or culture
3. Evaluate the political context of non-medical prescribing as applied to the individual's profession demonstrating understanding and application of the relevant legislation
4. Critically appraise sources of information/advice and decision support systems in prescribing practice and apply the principles of evidence-based practice to decision making

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

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5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the influences and pressures on prescribing practice
6. Integrate and apply knowledge of drug actions in relation to pathophysiology of the condition being treated
7. Demonstrate critical awareness of the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines
8. Demonstrate the ability to prescribe safely, rationally, cost effectively, and in consideration of the public health issues around medicines use
9. Demonstrate an expert understanding of prescribing decisions made within an ethical framework with due consideration for equality and diversity
10. Develop a clinical management plan within legislative requirements, critically appraise it in the context of supplementary prescribing, clearly identifying how supplementary prescribing differs from independent prescribing
11. Critically appraise history taking and clinical assessment of the child in the context of a prescribing consultation, giving consideration to the legal, cognitive, emotional and physical differences between children and adults. Demonstrate appropriate decision making with regard to diagnosis, treatment and/or referral
12. Apply critical analysis to the professional issues to be addressed in prescribing Off/unlicensed medicines
13. Contribute to clinical governance and quality assurance/audit of prescribing practice through the recognition of different types of medication error
14. Evaluate responses to medicines and modify or cease treatment as appropriate within professional scope of practice

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards and competency Frameworks:

- Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2006) Standards of proficiency for Nurse and Midwife prescribers.
- <http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/standards/standardsforprescribing/>
Prescribing standards for HCPC registrants
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society, (2016). A Competency Framework for all Prescribers

Course Structure

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.

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives ,Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians V300	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded as successfully completing the Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives and Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians V300

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying on the Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians (V300) are likely to have approximately 170 contact hours.

The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, and students will also be required to participate in 78/90 hours of work based supervision (Nurses =78, AHPs = 90). Students will normally be expected to undertake 6 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 are used on the course as required by the professional regulators. The assessment methods used are appropriate to assess the intended learning outcomes in order to ensure safe prescribing practice at the point of qualification. The team support students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles.

Assessment on the course overall will include a portfolio, (part academic and part practice) presentations, group work, reflective learning journals, 2 written examinations and practical assessments.

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 appropriate professional body (NMC, HCPC)]

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 Independent and/ or Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses, Midwives and Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Podiatrists and Dietitians V300 will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Part-time UK/EU	£1,650 per 40 credit module
Full-time International	Not applicable
Part-time International	Not applicable

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](#).