

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support) [progression route]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	120 Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support)
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Students will have completed a suitable level 5 programme such as a FdA in Social Care Practice, FdA Children’s Health Play & Wellbeing, FdA Mental Health Practice, HND Health & Social Care and will need to be in a paid or voluntary role in an appropriate setting such as a school, nursery or health & social care facility and have an enhanced DBS certificate with their current employer.
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)
UCAS Code	L505

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 6 in the 2023-24 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The Mental Health Support pathway was designed in response to requests from students who have undertaken other pathways but felt that a programme that enabled them to focus on mental health care practice and was identified as a specialism, would benefit them in their professional development and further studies. There are mental health support worker and senior support roles in areas such as education, residential care, community care, substance abuse and rehabilitation, and custodial environments. This course enables students to explore the theories and concepts that underpin and challenge mental health practice and service provision locally, nationally and internationally.

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](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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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The programme has been developed to allow those in the mental health care sector to further develop existing skills, and develop a broad range of practice skills, knowledge and understanding within key subject areas and to acquire and enhance their professional values.

Course Aims

1. To develop critical reflection, evaluation and argument in support of mental health care practice and the capacity to evaluate practice evidence;
2. To evaluate and critically analyse political and economic context of evidence-based practice within an inter-professional arena and to isolate origins and key components of evidenced based mental health care practice;
3. To critically evaluate professional contribution to the support of children, young people or adults through transitions, in order to maintain/regain their individual emotional, social and developmental potential;
4. To develop and enhance the specific and generic/transferable skills required for employment at a supervisory or managerial level and further development within mental health care practice;
5. To develop critical awareness of the issues which impact upon the delivery of effective practice in an inter-professional environment;
6. To enhance and develop advanced scholarship within the specialist sector through critical evaluation and analysis of methodologies within current and previous research through academic investigation.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support) 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.

1. Critically reflect upon the legislative, professional and statutory codes of conduct relevant to practice, such as the standards set by HCPC, NMC & GTC
2. Critically evaluate research and evidence-based concepts from law, psychology and social policy within Mental Health Support practice
3. Critically evaluate the principles informing accountability for their scope of Mental Health Support professional practice
4. Provide a critical understanding of needs of your service users and / or the community
5. Provide a critical analysis of the current problems, policy and practice in their specific area of professional practice and service context
6. Critically analyse and evaluate practice and theoretical evidence which contributes to an understanding of practice and service delivery. Apply and make links between research, 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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7. Critically reflect on self-development
8. Self-direct and use original approaches to problem solving
9. Recognise their own responsibilities and wider accountability structure in relation to self and practice
10. Critically evaluate Mental Health Support practice in the context of evidence-based practice within their environment
11. Develop focussed interventions to meet service users' needs in relation to practice setting
12. Critically evaluate the impact of professional and service interventions on service users and families
13. Critically reflect on their own practice, give and receive constructive feedback

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- Employability skills
- Knowledge and Skills Framework (2004:2019)
- Health and Care Professions Council
- QAA level descriptions and benchmark for Degrees (2014)
- National Occupational Standards – Health and Social Care (2014:2020)
- Professional Competency Framework for Social Work (2018)
- Common Core Principles to support good mental health and wellbeing in adult social care (2014)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support) comprises modules at level 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.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 6			
	Social Policy & Practice	20	M
	Transitions & Lifespan Development	20	M
	Developing Leadership in Practice	40	M
	Negotiated Project	40	M

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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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support).

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at East Coast College Great Yarmouth Campus. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support) are likely to have approximately 320 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, presentations, tutorials, workshops, online learning and lessons and students will also be required to participate in approximately 10 hours of paid or voluntary work per week, usually in their own place of work. Students will be expected to find their own placement if additional work experience is required. Students will normally be expected to undertake 8 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 overall will be 100% 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.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Mental Health Support) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£13,992 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

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

Students are likely to incur other costs for equipment, materials, optional field trips, and exhibitions amounting to approximately £100 per year.

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](#).