

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Professional Studies [progression route]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 credits comprising: 120 credits at Level 6 240 credits of recognised prior learning at levels 4 and 5 (see entry requirements below)
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Professional Studies
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: Foundation degree, Higher National Diploma, or equivalent
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College
UCAS Code	Y004

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Professional Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This course enables recent Foundation Degree (FdA/FdSc) or Higher National Diploma (HND) graduates to progress on to achieve an Honours degree. The course has been specifically designed to enable continued study in chosen vocational areas and allows students to build on credits already achieved.

The course focuses on management and professional issues that relate directly to the students' vocational specialism and employment. Students are encouraged to embrace the challenge of exploring new theoretical and practical ideas, applying them to real situations.

Upon graduation students can progress to employment in a professional area. This degree also helps those individuals already working in a professional role to gain promotion and become more confident with the decisions they make in the work place. Many also enter

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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programmes of further study for advanced professional qualifications or postgraduate courses such as the Master of Business Administration.

Course Aims

The overall aim of the BA (Hons) Professional Studies programme is to equip you with the knowledge, skills and experience that will enable them to be 'professionally ready' on graduation. The programme provides broad coverage of the key functions of management and enables you to appreciate the importance of the social, political, ethical, technological, environmental and global contexts in which organisations operate. The programme also provides opportunities for you to develop creativity, communication, problem solving, time management and decision making abilities through a range of skills and knowledge relevant to modern business and professional contexts. This is partly facilitated through the opportunities provided to investigate current issues within the business and professional environments.

BA (Hons) Professional Studies aims to:

- Provide articulated progression from level study at appropriate Honours level and to facilitate progression to further HE study at post-graduate level;
- Place emphasis on autonomy and independent, self-directed learning appropriate to honours level and beyond;
- Provide opportunities for the application of knowledge, skills and understanding within appropriate Honours level assessment activities (e.g. dissertations, projects, critiques etc.);
- Develop the students' presentational and communication skills, whether oral, written or through electronic media to professional standards;
- Encourage self-reflection and self-criticism, contextualised to own learning, performance and coursework;
- Provide a factual or knowledge base with the emphasis on more complex/unpredictable aspects of the chosen subject;
- Equip students to discuss aspects of their subject/profession with confidence and to enable them to appreciate where multiple solutions or ambiguity exist;
- Provide appropriate blended learning via formal lectures, groupwork, one-to-one tutorial support, peer support and sustained self-directed learning.

Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Professional Studies [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.

⁶ 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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1. Investigate and critically analyse the competitive environment facing the business organisation and professional activities.
2. Critically analyse organisational culture and its impact on organisational dynamics.
3. Analyse a range of leadership and management styles and practices and how they are effectively employed.
4. Demonstrate a high level of understanding and appreciation of a range of contemporary issues involving business, management, society, professionalism and ethics.
5. Critically evaluate a range of strategies for developing and sustaining motivation in themselves and in others.
6. Demonstrate highly developed professional skills to present, evaluate and interpret information, to develop lines of argument and make sound critical judgements in accordance with the theoretical frameworks and concepts associated with their professional sector.
7. Devise and justify a plan for future improvements to their own practice.

Course structure

The BA (Hons) Professional Studies [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 title	Credits	Module type ⁷	Timing
Level 6 modules			
Dissertation	40	M	Sem Y
Organisational Strategies	20	M	Sem 1
Professional Futures, Ethics and Sustainability	20	M	Sem 1
Managing for Innovation and Change	20	M	Sem 2
Professional Development	20	M	Sem 2

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Professional Studies.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Professional Studies course are likely to be engaged with approximately 1,200 learning hours. Course delivery centres around seven “Away Days” involving lectures, seminars and tutorials, during the year with the rest of the study time made up of self-directed learning via Learn. Full-time students will normally be expected to undertake

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approximately 22 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, personal journals and a dissertation). Approximately 20% of the coursework is made up of presentations and personal journals.

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) Professional Studies [progression route] will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£12,150 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,025 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. There are no additional costs other than the usual stationery items and text books.

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](#).