



Programme syllabus

Faculty Board of Health, Social Work and Behavioral Sciences
School of Health and Caring Sciences

Specialistsjuksköterskeprogram, inriktning psykiatrisk vård, 60
högskolepoäng

Specialist Nursing Programme with Specialism in Psychiatric Care,
60 credits

Level

Second Level

Establishment of Programme

Established by Organisational Committee 2009-03-26

Date of Ratification

Approved by 2009-09-15

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2010

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second level study and specific requirements:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 180 credits or its equivalent
- Bachelor of Science in Caring Science or its equivalent
- Professional experience as a nurse, the equivalent of at least 12 month's full-time work
- Swedish B and English A

Description of Programme

The aim of the study programme is to educate specialist nurses at the advanced level in the mental health care speciality and prepare them for work in today's and tomorrow's health service characterized by diversity and national and international co-operation. The specialist nurse in mental health care will be able to take responsibility for nursing a patient and his/her relatives, participate in medical care as well as being able to manage and organize the work practices within the specific field of the course. The most important fields of knowledge for the specialist nurse in mental health care are Caring Science and Medical Science.

Caring Science is the programme's main field of study. Caring Science is the science that concerns an individual's existence in relation to health, well-being, suffering and caring. Caring Science is autonomous and is not tied to one profession and has also roots in the humanities. The aim of Caring Science is to develop such knowledge, that a greater understanding of the situation of individuals and groups can be attained. This understanding is facilitated by the world being interpreted in the form of entities, relationships, contexts and patterns.

Caring Science focuses on the patient and his/her family in society and is based on their subjective experiences. Patient and family are to be seen as theoretical concepts where a patient is a person who is in a care relationship within the health care services and/or

adjacent fields, and a family entails the persons who he/she considers to be his/her family. A Caring Science approach means that the care relationship is characterized by respect for the integrity and dignity of the patient and his/her family.

Medical Science comprises knowledge of the human body and its reactions when in health and in illness. The subject includes medical treatment, pharmacology, microbiology so that the student will be able to assess in which ways the patient is affected by his/her illness and suffering with the aim of being able to apply it in the care and treatment of patients.

After completing the programme the student will have the competence for qualified and independent work as a specialist nurse within mental health care. This can entail working under a great variety of conditions in different types of mental health care and support services. The programme provides the basic qualifications for work abroad.

Objectives

The main objectives in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance:

In order to gain a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student is to demonstrate the knowledge and ability that is needed to work independently as a specialist nurse.

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to gain a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student is to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the subject's scientific basis and insight into current research and development work as well as knowledge about the relationship between science and evidence-based knowledge and the meaning of this relationship for exercising the profession, and
- demonstrate greater knowledge of the planning, managing and co-ordinating of work practices in health care.

Skills and abilities

In order to gain a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student is to:

- demonstrate a greater ability to be able to, independently and together with a patient and his/her relatives, identify needs for care and to draw up a care plan,
- demonstrate an ability to manage and evaluate nursing measures,
- demonstrate a greater ability to initiate, carry out and evaluate health promotion and prevention of ill health,
- demonstrate an ability to integrate knowledge as well as analyze, assess and cope with complex issues and situations,
- demonstrate an ability to participate in and independently perform examinations and treatments including care in the final stages of life, and
- demonstrate an ability to carry out care education

Judgement and Approach

In order to gain a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing the student is to:

- demonstrate self-awareness and an empathic ability,
- demonstrate an ability to make assessments for measures with a holistic view of an individual and based on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects and pay particular attention to human rights,
- demonstrate an ability to have a professional approach to patients and their relatives, and
- demonstrate an ability to identify own needs for further knowledge and for continually improving one's skills.

Specific objectives for the Mental Health Care Programme

In order to gain a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing in Mental Health Care the student is to:

- demonstrate an ability to observe, assess, take action for and evaluate complex needs,
- demonstrate an ability to meet a person in a crisis, and
- demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in treatment, habilitation and rehabilitation in psychiatric care services

Content

Organization

The programme can be given in collaboration between Linnaeus University and another seat of learning, which is then regulated in a contract. The study programme coordinator and the study programme advisory council (2 external representatives, 2 students and the programme coordinator) are responsible for the programme maintaining a high national and international standard, for it being adequate and meeting the expectations on today's and tomorrow's labour market and for the programme preparing students for master programmes or PhD-studies and for meeting the criteria for academic studies.

Programme Overview

The programme comprises 60 credits (of which 52.5 credits are in Caring Science and 7.5 credits in Medical Science) and is organized as part-time studies (50%). The programme at Linnaeus University, campus Växjö and campus Kalmar is also given as distance learning in collaboration with the university colleges at Jönköping and Halmstad. The programme includes both theoretical and clinical studies. The theoretical studies are given in the form of lectures, discussion groups and seminars. The clinical studies include field studies, practical exercises, study trips, short-term work experiences and clinical practice. Throughout the whole programme the students participate in group supervision in order to gain greater knowledge of their profession by reflecting on their own experiences of situations with patients. The tuition is given either at the campus or as net-based distance learning.

Programme Courses

The order of the courses in the programme can vary within each term. All the courses are at the second level and are compulsory.

1st Term

The perspective of the patient and his/her family, 7.5 credits. A1N*
 Medical Science, Psychopathology, 7.5 credits A1N
 Mental Health Care, clinical studies in a hospital environment, 5.5 credits A1N*
 Theories and models for communication and care 5,5 credits A1N*
 Supervision based on caring science, module 1, 4 credits A1N*

2nd. Term

Health promoting and Community-based Psychiatric Care, 5.5 credits A1F*
 Scientific Methodology, 7.5 credits. A1N*
 Project Paper, 7.5 credits A1F*
 Mental Health Care, clinical studies in community care, 6 credits A1F*
 Supervision based on caring science, module 2, 3.5 credits A1N*

* = Course in main field of study

Work experience/Practical training/Clinical Studies/Community contacts

The clinical studies in mental health care are mainly carried out in the Kronoberg, Kalmar, Jönköping and Halmstad County health authorities, but clinical studies in other county health or municipal authorities are possible. Programme development is carried out together with representatives for the specific practical field.

The unit where the student carries out his/her clinical studies is to be different from where he/she has previously been employed.

Studies Abroad

In order to strengthen the international/intercultural perspective in the programme the possibility is given to carry out a part of the study programme in accordance with the school's exchange programme. The planning for this is carried out in consultation between the school's international coordinator and the programme coordinator.

Scope of the programme

The study programme prepares nurses for work in mental health care in today's and tomorrow's health service in a society characterized by ecological, economic and social sustainability. Diversity is a focal point throughout the programme. The teaching is based on actively preventing discrimination and has an ethical focus. The term diversity entails gender, age, culture, social class and ethnicity when encountering different states of ill health.

Quality Development

Evaluation is part of the school's work on quality assurance and is carried out continually. It is the responsibility of the students and the teachers to participate in evaluating the courses. The results of the evaluation and suggestions for changes are to be presented to the students after each course. Furthermore the head of department/director of studies meets regularly with student representatives. The quality of the programme will be the focus of these meetings and suggestions for quality assurance and development will be discussed. The course coordinator and the programme co-ordinator/director of studies are responsible for course development. The course and programme evaluations will be compiled and retained by the school.

Degree Certificate

After completing the programme studies that correspond to the requirements stated in the Higher Education Ordinance system of qualifications as well as to Linnaeus University's local system of qualifications the student can apply for a degree certificate. Students who have completed the Specialist Nursing Programme with specialization in Mental Health Care can receive the following degree:

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing with specialization in Mental Health Care Nursing

The degree certificate is bilingual (Swedish/English). A Diploma Supplement in English is provided together with the degree certificate.