



Course Specification

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Produced By:	Debbie Collymore
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	The Institute of Health		
Course Code(s):	NH051P01UV NH051P31UV	Full-time Part-time	1 Years 2 Years
Course Title:	Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Community Nursing (District Nursing)		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Specialist Community Nursing (District Nursing) Postgraduate Certificate Specialist Community Nursing (District Nursing) University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	26/Jul/2017		
Last Review:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid from:	2010/1		
Course Specification valid to:	2021/2		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Miss Jayne Murphy
Head of Department:	Mrs Sarah Sherwin

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

Students must be a Level 1 Registered Nurse and/or Midwife on either Part 1 or Part 2 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Register.

They must be seconded or sponsored by a NHS Trust or equivalent employer. The normal minimum academic entry requirement is 120 level 4 credits, 120 level 5 credits and 120 level 6 credits. The degree would normally be in a health related field, however it may be possible for a student to enter the Master's programme without a first degree providing they are able to provide evidence of their suitability to study at masters level e.g. publications, research proposals, conference papers, portfolio of written work etc. Accreditation of Prior Learning will be considered in line with NMC guidance for APL (up to one third of a programme see NMC Circular 01/2011).

Students will be required to undertake a DBS check and occupational health clearance which is arranged by the sponsoring or seconding organisation.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

Students accessing this course will come from a wide range of areas within the West Midlands. Networking between students is encouraged and considered to be a strength of the course as evidenced in previous student course evaluations. Students will also undertake the V100 Nurse Prescribing Qualification as part of the course. There is an active practice teacher network forum and practice teachers/mentors are provided with an annual update each year along with other professional development opportunities. Students are also visited individually in practice by the course leader to provide additional support.

The district nursing award has a designated full time member of staff who acts as course leader and who has expertise in the specific field of practice that the student is studying and as well as having experience of working as a practitioner in the same specialist area. In addition staff within the award team have engaged in research, published books, chapters and journal articles within the field of community nursing and public health, act as external examiners for other HEI's and are active members of national professional groups and forums.

Students completing a post graduate diploma will be able to undertake a dissertation module (subject to funding) in order to complete an MSc in primary care.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The Post Graduate Diploma Specialist Community Nursing (District Nursing) programme aims to:

1. Develop competent, safe and professional specialist community nurses who have a sound theoretical knowledge base and who are fit for practice in the designated field of district nursing.
2. Equip students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to evaluate, enhance, synthesise and develop higher levels of decision making within the context of primary care and public health.
3. Develop and enhance leadership and management skills within the context of primary care practice to support others and to benefit the health of patients, clients and carers.
4. Provide the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary and inter-professional working practices.
5. Enable practitioners to adopt critical reflective practice and lifelong learning that fosters a spirit of scientific enquiry and research that promotes personal and professional development.
6. Equip practitioners with cognitive knowledge and skills to lead, innovate and contribute to an evidence base of practice in order to benefit patients, clients, carers and communities.
7. Support practitioners to work within codes and standards of professional practice to protect human rights, promote equality and manage risk in the safe delivery of health care.
8. To develop and integrate the underpinning theory and practice to prepare specialist practitioners to prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively from the Nurse Prescribers formulary for Community Practitioners.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Wholly NHS funded

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2017/8			£

PSRB:

NH051P01UV (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
23/May/2011	23/May/2011	28/Apr/2018	28/Apr/2018

NH051P31UV (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
23/May/2011	23/May/2011	28/Apr/2018	28/Apr/2018

Course Structure:

September (Full-Time)

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Nursing students normally study 120 credits for their award.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7NH007	Health Assessment and Examination Skills within Clinical Practice	20	SEM1	Core
7NH008	Critical Appraisal of Primary Health Care Provision	20	SEM2	Core
7NH009	Advanced Perspectives of Public Health and Social Policy in Specialist Practice	20	SEM1	Core
7NH005	Advancing Practice through Leadership and Innovation	20	SEM2	Core
7NH004	Research and Inquiry in Specialist Practice	20	YEAR	Core
7NH012	Specialist Community Nursing District Nursing and Practice Nursing	20	CRYRA	Core

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None

Reference Points:

This course is underpinned by University and School of Health and Wellbeing guidance, strategic plans and academic regulations. For further information please refer to the reference points on the course specification (course guide).

The programme has been benchmarked against the following documents:-

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Framework for HE Qualifications (2008)

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Framework for Nursing (2002).

Standards for Specialist Practice (NMC 2004)

Standards of Proficiency for Nurse and Midwife Prescribers (NMC 2006).

Every Child Matters (DH/DfES 2003)

Blended Learning Targets

Graduate Attributes University of Wolverhampton

Equality Act 2010

In addition the following documents have been used as reference points:-

Choosing Health (DH 2004)

Modernising Nursing Careers (DH 2006)

High Quality for All. The NHS Next Stage Review (Darzi Report) (DH 2008)

Raising the profile of long term conditions care (DH 2008)

Transforming Community Services (DH 2010)

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS (DH 2010)

NICE Guidance

Learning Outcomes:

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGCCL01)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGCCL02)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGCCL03)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGCCL04)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGCCL05)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGCCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCL01)

Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, skills and understanding of the theories, concepts and evidence base of Specialist Community Nursing practice.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCL02)

Synthesise knowledge of holistic assessment and physical examination skills.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCL03)

Critically analyse and evaluate how the development of health and social policies, health care initiatives and other drivers influence the delivery of client care and impact upon professional practice.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCLO4)

Demonstrate originality, sound judgements and complex decision making within your own area of professional practice in relation to leadership, innovation and entrepreneurialism.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCLO5)

Effectively collaborate with other disciplines, professions and agencies in order to enhance and promote effective client care and safeguard vulnerable groups.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGDCLO6)

Critically evidence how the NMC Standards for Specialist Community Nursing in relation to the chosen field of practice have been achieved.

Overview of Assessment:

Module Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7NH004 Research and Inquiry in Specialist Practice	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7NH005 Advancing Practice through Leadership and Innovation	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7NH007 Health Assessment and Examination Skills within Clinical Practice	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7NH008 Critical Appraisal of Primary Health Care Provision	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO6
7NH009 Advanced Perspectives of Public Health and Social Policy in Specialist Practice	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO6
7NH012 Specialist Community Nursing District Nursing and Practice Nursing	PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

A range of learning activities will be utilised to support students to achieve the learning outcomes of the course. These will include interactive lectures and presentations, VLE, seminars, workshops, practice related activities, group and individual tutorials, clinical skills development within Clinical Skills Laboratory, enquiry based learning, action learning, self directed study and reflection.

Students will spend 50% of the programme in practice with their sponsoring or seconded Primary Care Trust/employing organisation. They will be supported in practice by an identified qualified sign off mentor/practice teacher who will assist the student in meeting their learning needs and assess their competency against the NMC Standards for Specialist Community Nursing (2004).

Student Support:

Students will be supported throughout the course by the course award leader.

The designated course leader for the field of practice they are studying i.e. District Nursing. Each course leader

is a registered NMC teacher and has subject specific knowledge and expertise within the same field of nursing that the student is studying.

Students who successfully complete the post graduate diploma are able to progress and complete an MSc in Primary Care.

Each student will be allocated a personal tutor (the course leader or another designated member of the course team experienced in the same field of practice).

The Module Leader who will provide academic support for the student on the module.

Sign off mentor/practice teacher who will facilitate and support opportunities for learning within the practice environment. The sign off mentor/practice teacher will ensure that appropriate and relevant learning experiences are available and will supervise, monitor and assess that the student has achieved the learning outcomes for practice.

In addition to the campus-based Learning Centres which provide special support, the University provides a range of support for you to develop the skills required for successful academic study. These include:

[Infobites](#)

[Academic Writing Skills](#)

[Referencing](#)

[EndNote](#)

[PebblePAD](#)

[IT Services self-help guides](#)

[Study Skills](#)

[Skills for learning](#)

[Assist](#)

[ASSISTThe Student Enabling Centre](#)

The School provides additional support:

- FEHW Student Advisors
- Your Personal Tutor
- The Module Leader and module team members

Within the induction programme there are dedicated face to face sessions on study skills, referencing and details on how to contact and access the above support services. Students will also be informed about the range of electronic study skills support available to them on a regular basis both within the induction period and in the delivery of each module. Within pre course materials students are directed to a range of texts in relation to study skills focusing on activities such as how to write an assignment, making effective lecture notes etc.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate a number of key skills to enhance their employability, some of these are listed below:

- Work effectively as part of a group and be involved in interprofessional working practices.

- Demonstrate teamwork, leadership skills and be able to manage and resolve conflict
- Be independent and self directing in their own learning
- Develop effective communication skills both written (via reports etc.) and oral (through formal presentations)
- Problem-solve and make sound judgements and complex decisions.
- Develop IT skills (which include use of basic packages for word processing, spreadsheets, use of email, navigating virtual learning environments etc.)
- Time management and show the ability to be able to prioritise
- Manage change and seek out innovative opportunities in order to enhance practice and service delivery
- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding relating to assessment, caseload management
- Demonstrate competence as a specialist community nurse by achieving the NMC Standards for specialist community nursing.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY