



**ERSTA  
SKÖNDAL  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE**

Department of Health Care Sciences

**SYLLABUS FOR  
BSc DEGREE IN NURSING**

**180 ECTS CREDITS**

## SYLLABUS FOR BSc Degree in Nursing, 180 ECTS credits

### Launch of the study programme

The BSc Degree in Nursing carries 180 ECTS credits. The syllabus was adopted by the Research and Education Board at Ersta Sköndal University College on 27 June 2007.

### Prior knowledge required and other conditions for admission to studies

Admission to the study programme for the the BSc Degree in Nursing at the Department of Health Care Sciences, Ersta Sköndal University College requires basic eligibility under the Degree Ordinance (part of the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 2006:1053) *and also* special eligibility for studies in higher education. Accordingly, applicants must have completed the following upper secondary courses:

Mathematics B + Social Studies A + General Science B (or Physics A + Chemistry A + Biology A)

For applicants with older certificates, an 'equivalence assessment' is carried out for admission purposes by the Swedish National Agency for Services to Universities and University Colleges (*Verket för högskoleservice, VHS*).

In general, the requirement of special eligibility in the subjects listed above means at least the grade 'Pass' or 3<sup>1</sup> in each subject unless otherwise specified in the regulations concerning eligibility issued by the National Agency for Higher Education (HSVFS 1996:21). Eligibility decisions may be appealed in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance.

For temporary regulations, see the amendments to the 1993 Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1999:687).

### Aims of the study programme

Under the Higher Education Act (1992:1434), undergraduate education is intended to develop the students'

- ability to make independent and critical assessments
- ability to independently perceive, formulate and solve problems
- preparedness to deal with change in working life.

In the educational field concerned, in addition to knowledge and skills, students are intended to develop an ability to

- seek and evaluate knowledge at a scholarly level
- follow the development of knowledge
- exchange knowledge with other people, including people without specialist knowledge of the field.

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<sup>1</sup> *Translator's note.* Where the five-point grading scale (1–5) is used, 5 is the highest grade and 3 the average grade for all upper secondary pupils in Sweden.

The BSc Degree in Nursing is obtained when the student has completed the course requirements of 180 ECTS credits. The purpose of the study programme for the BSc Degree in Nursing is to train nurses, giving them professional know-how based both on science and on tried and tested experience. The aim is that nurses should be prepared for their encounters with patients and their relatives and with colleagues and, in these encounters, apply an ethical approach. Another purpose is to prepare the future nurses to meet the requirements of a changing society and contribute to sustainable development. Accordingly, multicultural and gender perspectives are key focuses of the training.

The study programme also aims to provide an undergraduate academic Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree. The Degree Ordinance (part of the Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 2006:1053) for the BSc Degree in Nursing states the aim that the student should show the kind of knowledge and ability that are required for eligibility to work as a nurse.

### ***Knowledge and understanding***

For the BSc Degree in Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show knowledge of the scientific foundations of the field and awareness of current research and development, as well as knowledge of the connection between science and tried, tested experience and the bearing of this connection on professional practice
- show knowledge of planning, management and coordination of nursing and healthcare work
- show knowledge of the factors in society that affect the health of children, women and men
- show knowledge of relevant legislation.

### ***Proficiency and skills***

For the BSc Degree in Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show an ability, working independently and in cooperation with patients and their relatives, to identify care needs and draw up nursing care plans
- show an ability to administer medication adequately and to inform patients about its effects and side-effects
- show an ability to identify needs for, and implement, efforts to promote health and prevent ill-health
- show an ability to initiate methodological improvement and quality assurance
- show an ability to apply their knowledge to deal with various situations, phenomena and issues on the basis of individuals' and groups' needs
- show an ability to inform and instruct various groups and to implement supervisory tasks
- show an ability to report orally and in writing on, and discuss, measures and treatment results with the parties concerned and also, in accordance with the relevant legislation, document the same
- show an ability to carry out teamwork and cooperate with other professional categories
- show an ability to examine critically, assess and make use of relevant information and to discuss new facts, phenomena and issues with various target groups and, in so doing, help to develop the profession and activities of nursing.

### *Valuation capacity and attitudes*

For the BSc Degree in Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show self-knowledge and a capacity for empathy
- show an ability to apply a holistic view of humankind to assessing required measures based on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, with special reference to human rights
- show an ability to maintain a professional attitude towards patients and their relatives
- show an ability to identify their own needs of additional knowledge and continuously develop their own skills.

### *Independent degree project*

For the BSc Degree in Nursing, each student is intended to have completed an independent degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits within the framework of the course requirements.

## **Disposition of the programme**

The principal subject area of Health Care Sciences is based on people's subjective experience and covers human needs of healthcare and social care during various phases of their lives.

Health and ill-health are seen in holistic terms, i.e. in a manner that includes biological, psychological, sociocultural and gender aspects.

Nursing is the application of knowledge of Health Care Sciences to the nurse's work. Within the framework of the principal subject area, Health Care Sciences, Discussion Methods are included. Health Care Ethics on the one hand, and Philosophical Studies and Views of Life on the other, are the department's profile subjects and, like Palliative Care, figure prominently in the BSc Degree in Nursing. For nurses' professional skill, Medical Science and Social and Behavioural Science are essential closely related subject areas.

The study programme is conducted in the form of full-time studies. Problem-based learning (PBL) is the starting point in the educational approach employed. Characteristics of PBL are that tackling problems and reflection take place in teacher-supervised groups and in the form of lectures, seminars and proficiency training. A considerable portion of the programme is composed of clinical training. Through the training, in-depth knowledge and advanced skills are acquired and integrated.

For each course, there is a syllabus and a study guide containing detailed instructions for the course concerned.

Internationalisation is an important aspect of the programme, and can take place both in and outside Sweden. Students can pursue their studies partially abroad.

## **Content of the programme**

The content is divided into themes and the programme comprises a number of courses. The content of the programme is described below in terms of each year's studies.



### **FIRST YEAR OF STUDIES, TERMS 1 AND 2, 1–60 ECTS CREDITS**

The first year comprises 50 ECTS credits of theoretical education and 10 ECTS credits of clinical training.

**Theme: Humankind, Health, Society and the Environment, 30 ECTS credits**

Courses: Humankind, Health, the Environment and Health Care Sciences, 7 ECTS credits

People as Biological, Psychological and Social Beings, 16 ECTS credits

Ethics, Philosophical Studies and Views of Life, 7 ECTS credits

**Theme: The Profession of Nurse based on Health Care Sciences and Health Care Ethics, 30 ECTS credits**

Courses: The Profession of Nurse, Theoretical Foundation and Nursing, 10 ECTS credits

Clinical Training, Basic Nursing, 10 ECTS credits

Scientific Theory and Scientific Method, 10 ECTS credits

### **SECOND YEAR OF STUDIES, TERMS 3 AND 4, 61–120 ECTS CREDITS**

The second year comprises 45 ECTS credits of theoretical education and 15 ECTS credits of clinical training.

**Theme: Humankind, Ill-Health and Nursing, 54 ECTS credits**

Courses: Human Nursing Needs when Health and Bodily Functions Fail, 24 ECTS credits

Human Needs of Palliative Care, 7 ECTS credits

Clinical Training, Somatic Care, 15 ECTS credits

The Nurse's Instructional and Managerial Function with Responsibility for Systematic Improvement, 8 ECTS credits

**Theme: Health-promoting Care, Nursing and Ethical Perspectives, 6 (out of 36) ECTS credits**

Course: Optional theory course, Human Needs of Health-promoting Care and Nursing, 6 ECTS credits

Examples: Palliative Care, Pain and Suffering, The Home as the Care Venue, Global Health, Transcultural Care, Mental Health and Ill-health..

### **THIRD YEAR OF STUDIES, TERMS 5 AND 6, 121–180 ECTS CREDITS**

The third year comprises 33 ECTS credits of theoretical education and 27 ECTS credits of clinical training.

**Theme: Health-promoting Care, Nursing and Ethical Perspectives, 24 (out of 36) ECTS credits**

Courses: Public Health in a Global Perspective, 3 ECTS credits

Clinical Training in Primary Care, Psychiatric Care, Geriatric and Palliative Care, 27 ECTS credits

**Theme: Project or Dissertation, 22 ECTS credits**

Course: Scientific Method and Degree Project, 22 ECTS credits



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**Theme: Health Care Ethics or Philosophical Studies and Views of Life, 8 ECTS credits**

Course: Health Care Ethics, 8 ECTS credits

or

Course: Philosophical Studies and Views of Life in a Health Care Context, 8 ECTS credits

### **Evaluation of the programme**

Evaluation takes place in relation to the aims of the study programme and is shaped in cooperation by the students, teachers and Board of the Department of Health Care Sciences. The purpose is to provide documentation for systematic improvement.

### **Examinations and grading**

Examinations have a bearing both on the learning process and on quality control, and serve as a means of checking that the aims of the study programme are achieved by individual students. The forms of examination vary within the programme.

Grades are set according to the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 2006:1053). The grading scale comprises three grades: Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail. Unless otherwise prescribed in the syllabus, grades must be set for courses completed. The grade is set by a specially appointed teacher (examiner).

Students who have not passed their examinations on the regular occasions may undergo an additional five examinations within a reasonable period. A student who has failed the examinations twice is entitled to request the appointment of another teacher (examiner) to grade the student's examination performance. This request must be addressed to the head of department. Students who fail in their clinical training can obtain new trainee places. Students who fail after two trainee placements are not permitted to continue with their studies.

Whether credit is given for previous education is reviewed in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 2006:1053). Crediting issues are dealt with by the head of department following presentation of the request by the student.

### **Course certificates, diplomas and degree titles**

Students who pass courses receive course certificates on request. A student who fulfils the course requirement of a total of 180 ECTS credits obtains the diploma for the BSc Degree in Nursing. With the diploma for the BSc Degree in Nursing, the student can apply for registration as a nurse from the National Board of Health and Welfare. Diplomas and course certificates are awarded in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 2006: 1053).



Theme/Course	Health Care Sciences, No. of ECTS credits	Health Care Ethics and Philosophical Studies and Views of Life, No. of ECTS credits	Medical Science, No. of ECTS credits	Social and Behavioural Science, No. of ECTS credits	No. of ECTS credits per theme or course
<b>Theme: Humankind, Health, Society and the Environment</b>					<b>30</b>
Course Humankind, Health, the Environment and Health Care Sciences	7				7
Course People as Biological, Psychological and Social Beings			10	6	16
Course Ethics, Philosophical Studies and Views of Life		7			7
<b>Theme: The Profession of Nurse based on Health Care Sciences and Health Care Ethics</b>					<b>30</b>
Course The Profession of Nurse, Theoretical Foundation and Nursing	10				10
Course Clinical Training, Basic Nursing	10				10
Course Scientific Theory and Scientific Method	7	3			10
<b>Theme: Humankind, Ill-Health and Nursing</b>					<b>54</b>
Course Human Nursing Needs when Health and Bodily Functions Fail	4		20		24
Course Human Needs of Palliative Care	4	1	2		7
Course Clinical Training, Somatic Care	8	1	5	1	15
Course The Nurse's Instructional and Managerial Function with Responsibility for Systematic Improvement	5			3	8
<b>Total credits for subject areas and themes, this page</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>114</b>



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Theme/Course	Health Care Sciences, No. of ECTS credits	Health Care Ethics and Philosophical Studies and Views of Life, No. of ECTS credits	Medical Science, No. of ECTS credits	Social and Behavioural Science, No. of ECTS credits	No. of ECTS credits per theme or course
<b>Theme: Health-promoting Care, Nursing and Ethical Perspectives</b>					<b>36</b>
Course Optional theoretical course, Human Needs of Health-promoting Care and Nursing	2	1	3		6
Course Public Health in a Global Perspective				3	3
Course Clinical Training in Primary Care, Psychiatric Care, Geriatric and Palliative Care	11	2	11	3	27
<b>Theme: Project or Dissertation</b>					<b>22</b>
Course Scientific Method and Degree Project	22				22
<b>Theme: Health Care Ethics or Philosophical Studies and Views of Life, 8 ECTS credits</b>					<b>8</b>
Course Health Care Ethics OR		8			8
Course Philosophical Studies and Views of Life in a Health Care Context		8			8
<b>Total credits for subject areas and themes, this page</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Total ECTS credits for subject areas and themes (both pages)</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>180</b>