



ERSTA  
SKÖNDAL  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE

Department of Health Care Sciences

SYLLABUS FOR COORDINATED  
BSc DEGREE IN NURSING  
AND  
GRADUATE DIPLOMA (MSc DEGREE) IN  
SPECIALIST GERIATRIC NURSING  
240 ECTS CREDITS

## SYLLABUS FOR COORDINATED BSc DEGREE IN NURSING AND GRADUATE DIPLOMA (MSc DEGREE) IN SPECIALIST GERIATRIC NURSING, 240 ECTS CREDITS

This study programme is coordinated with the Master's (MSc) Degree in Social Work and Public Administration, 240 credits, at the Department of Social Work.

The study programme for the coordinated BSc Degree and Graduate Diploma (MSc Degree) in Specialist Geriatric Nursing, 240 ECTS credits, leads to the Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Nursing and the Graduate Diploma (MSc Degree) in Specialist Geriatric Nursing.

### Launch of the study programme

The coordinated BSc Degree in Nursing and Graduate Diploma (MSc Degree) in Specialist Geriatric Nursing carries 240 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 courses in upper secondary education:

*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 (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** (at basic or first level) 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.

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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.

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 others, including people without specialist knowledge of the field.

Under the Higher Education Act (1992:1434), **postgraduate education** (at advanced or second level) is intended essentially to build on the knowledge acquired by the students at undergraduate level, or corresponding knowledge. The aim is that it should involve acquisition of more advanced skills and abilities than those acquired at undergraduate level and also, over and above the requirements for undergraduate education,

- further develop the students' ability to independently integrate and use knowledge
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable independence or for research and development work.

The BSc Degree in Nursing and the Graduate Diploma (MSc Degree) in Specialist Geriatric Nursing are obtained when the student has completed the course requirements of 240 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 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.

On completion of studies comprising 180 ECTS credits, the Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Health Care Sciences can be obtained. On completion of studies comprising 240 ECTS credits, the Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Health Care Sciences can be obtained.

### 1) BSc Degree in Nursing

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.

## **2) Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing**

For the **Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing** the aim is that the student should show the kind of knowledge and ability that are required for eligibility to work as a specialist nurse **in geriatric care**. The Degree Ordinance (part of the Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 2006:1053) defines the following aims.

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Geriatric Nursing, the aims are for the students to



- show knowledge of the scientific foundations of the field and an understanding 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 advanced knowledge of planning, management and coordination of nursing and healthcare work.

### *Proficiency and skills*

For the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Geriatric Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show an advanced 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 manage and evaluate nursing measures
- show an advanced ability to initiate, implement and evaluate efforts to promote health and prevent ill-health
- show an ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex issues and situations
- show an ability to take part in and independently conduct surveys and provide treatments, including end-of-life care
- show an ability to instruct others in healthcare
- show an ability to independently assess, plan, implement and evaluate the measures required to promote physical, mental and social health and prevent illness and its complications from arising
- show an ability to observe and assess elderly patients' complex care and rehabilitation needs.

### *Valuation capacity and attitudes*

For the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Geriatric 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 Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, each student is intended to have completed an independent degree project within the framework of the course requirements.

### *Other requirements*

For the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student must have completed a clinical part of the training.

### 3) MSc Degree in Specialist Nursing

A **Master's (MSc) Degree** (Degree Ordinance, SFS 2006:1053 ) is attained when the student has completed the required 60 ECTS credits in specialist geriatric care, including 30 ECTS credits from advanced studies in the principal subject area of Health Care Sciences.

Under the Degree Ordinance, the following aims are defined for the Master's Degree.

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For the MSc Degree in Specialist Geriatric Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show knowledge and understanding of the principal subject area of the study programme, including both overviews of the field and advanced knowledge in specific parts of the field, and also an understanding of current research and development work
- show in-depth knowledge of methodology in the principal subject area of the study programme.

#### *Proficiency and skills*

For the MSc Degree in Specialist Geriatric Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show an ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available
- show an ability to independently identify and formulate issues and also to plan and, using adequate methods, carry out advanced tasks within given time limits
- show an ability to report and discuss, orally and in writing, their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments forming the basis of the same in dialogues with various groups
- show the kind of skill that is required to take part in research and development work or to carry out other skille activities.

#### *Valuation capacity and attitudes*

For the MSc Degree in Specialist Geriatric Nursing, the aims are for the students to

- show an ability, within the principal subject area of the study programme, to carry out assessments with reference to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects and also to show awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- show an understanding of the opportunities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used
- show an ability to identify their needs of further knowledge and take responsibility for their own knowledge development.

#### *Independent degree project*

For the MSc Degree in Specialist Nursing, the aims are for the students, within the framework of the course requirements, to have completed an independent degree project carrying at least 15 ECTS credits in the principal subject area of Health Care Sciences.

## **Joint aims for the coordinated courses**

The aims are for the students to

- show an ability to clarify and work out personal values with respect to philosophical issues, views of life and ethics
- show an ability to identify and evaluate, in geriatric care, problems of ethics, philosophical issues and views of life
- show an ability to report on, identify conditions for and evaluate health care in particular, but also social work focusing on the elderly
- show an ability to report on and evaluate organisation, leadership, knowledge production and development work in elderly care.

## **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 of Health Care Sciences, Discussion Methods are included.

The aim of the coordinated programme is, by integrating but also distinguishing knowledge from the two principal subject areas, Health Care Sciences and Social Work, to give the students an in-depth view of elderly people and make possible an interface for two professions, those of the specialist nurse and the qualified social worker, in geriatric care.

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. Active student learning is the starting point in the educational approach employed. Knowledge acquisition also takes place in the form of lectures, seminars, proficiency training and 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.

A considerable portion of the programme is composed of clinical training.

## **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.

Courses marked with an asterisk (\*) are attended jointly with students at the Department of Social Work.



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

The first year comprises 60 ECTS credits of theoretical education.

**Theme: Health Care Sciences and Social Work as Scientific Disciplines and Bases for Professions in Geriatric and Elderly Care, 20 ECTS credits**

Courses: Introduction to Health Care Sciences and Social Work, 10 ECTS credits\*  
Scientific Theory and Scientific Method, 10 ECTS credits\*

**Theme: Human Needs in a Lived Experience Perspective, 30 ECTS credits**

Courses: Behavioural Sciences Focusing on the Elderly and Gerontology, 10 ECTS credits\*  
Theorisation in Nursing, 10 ECTS credits  
People as Biological Beings, 10 ECTS credits

**Theme: Human Beings as Creators of Meaning, 10 ECTS credits**

Course: Ethics, Philosophical Issues and Views of Life, 10 ECTS credits

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

The second year comprises 42 ECTS credits of theoretical education and 18 ECTS credits of clinical training.

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

Courses: Clinical Training in Geriatric Care, Basic Nursing, 10 ECTS credits  
Human Nursing Needs when Health and Bodily Functions Fail, 20 ECTS credits  
Instruction and Organisational Aspects of Nursing in a Professional Perspective, 10 ECTS credits\*  
Human Needs of Palliative Care, 6 ECTS credits  
Clinical Training, Somatic Care in Surgery, 8 ECTS credits

**Theme: Legal Science, 6 ECTS credits**

Course: Law, 6 ECTS credits

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

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

**Theme: Humankind, Ill-Health and Nursing II, 40 ECTS credits**

Courses: Human Nursing Needs when Health and Bodily Functions Fail, 17 ECTS credits  
Clinical Training, Geriatric Care, 8 ECTS credits  
Clinical Training, Psychiatric Care, 7 ECTS credits  
Organisation, Leadership and Priorities, 8 ECTS credits

**Theme: Project or Dissertation in Geriatric Care, 20 ECTS credits**

Course: Scientific Method and Degree Project, 20 ECTS credits\*



## **FOURTH YEAR OF STUDIES, TERMS 7 AND 8, 181–240 ECTS CREDITS**

The fourth year comprises 38 ECTS credits of theoretical education and 22 ECTS credits of clinical training.

**Theme: Health-Promoting Care and Nursing for Complex Care Needs, with Ethical Perspectives, 37 ECTS credits**

Courses: Health Care Ethics *or* Philosophical Issues and Views of Life in a Care Context, 6 ECTS credits  
Public Health in a Global Perspective, 3 ECTS credits  
Clinical Training in Primary, Geriatric and Palliative Care, 22 ECTS credits  
Optional course in Geriatric Care, 6 ECTS credits  
(Examples: Care of People in Confused States; Elderly People's Nutritional Intake and Meal Situation; Injury Risks and Prevention; and Pharmacological, Legal and Ethical Perspectives on Medication and Medicinal Drug Intake in Geriatric Care.)

**Theme: Leadership and Improvement, 3 ECTS credits**

Course: Leadership and Work Development, 3 ECTS credits\*

**Theme: Project or Dissertation in Geriatric Nursing, 20 ECTS credits**

Course: Scientific Method and Degree Project, 20 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 measures to enhance quality.

### **Examinations, grading and crediting**

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 have passed their examinations may not undergo further examinations in order to obtain higher grades.

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.



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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 240 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 for the BSc and MSc Degrees 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>Terms 1 and 2 Theme: Health Care Sciences and Social Work as Scientific Disciplines and Bases for Professions in Geriatric and Elderly Care</b>					<b>20</b>
Course Introduction to Health Care Sciences and Social Work	7			3	10* <sup>1</sup>
Course Scientific Theory and Scientific Method	10				10*
<b>Theme: Human Needs in a Lived Experience Perspective</b>					<b>30</b>
Course Behavioural Sciences Focusing on the Elderly and Gerontology				10	10*
Course Theorisation in Nursing	10				10
Course People as Biological Beings			10		10
<b>Theme: Human Beings as Creators of Meaning</b>					<b>10</b>
Course Ethics, Philosophical Issues and Views of Life		10			10*
<b>Total credits for subject areas and themes, this page</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> Courses marked with an asterisk (\*) are attended jointly with students at the Department of Social Work.



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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	Medicial Science, No. of ECTS credits	Social and Behavioural Science, No. of ECTS credits	No. of ECTS credits per theme or course
<b>Terms 3 and 4 Theme: Humankind, Ill-Health and Nursing I</b>					<b>54</b>
Course Clinical Training in Geriatric Care, Basic Nursing	6	2		2	10
Course Human Nursing Needs when Health and Bodily Functions Fail	8		12		20
Course Instruction and Organisational Aspects of Nursing in a Professional Perspective	4			6	10*
Course Human Needs of Palliative Care	3	1	2		6
Course Clinical Training, Somatic Care in Surgery	4	1	3		8
<b>Total credits for subject areas and themes</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Theme: Legal Science</b>					<b>6</b>
Course Law					6
<b>Total credits for themes, this page</b>					<b>60</b>



*Continued*

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>Terms 5 and 6 Theme: Humankind, Ill-Health and Nursing II</b>					<b>40</b>
Course Human Nursing Needs when Health and Bodily Functions Fail	7		10		17
Course Clinical Training, Geriatric Care	3	1	2	2	8
Course Clinical Training, Psychiatric Care	5	1	1		7
Course Organisation, Leadership and Priorities	3			5	8
<b>Theme: Project or Dissertation in Geriatric Care</b>					<b>20</b>
Course Scientific Method and Degree Project	20				20*
<b>Total credits for subject areas and themes, this page</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60</b>



*Continued*

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>Terms 7 and 8 Theme: Health-Promoting Care and Nursing for Complex Care Needs, with Ethical Perspectives</b>					<b>37</b>
Course Health Care Ethics, 6 ECTS credits <i>or</i> Course Philosophical Issues and Views of Life in a Care Context, 6 ECTS credits		6			6
Course Public Health in a Global Perspective				3	3
Course Clinical Training in Primary, Geriatric and Palliative Care	8	3	8	3	22
Course Optional course in Geriatric Care	2	1	3		6[C1]
<b>Theme: Leadership and Improvement</b>					<b>3</b>
Course Leadership and Work Development				3	3*
<b>Theme: Project or Dissertation in Geriatric Nursing</b>					<b>20</b>
Course Scientific Method and Degree Project	20				20*
<b>Total credits for subject areas and themes, this page</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Total ECTS credits for subject areas and themes (all four pages)</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>234 + 6 Law 240</b>

[C1]OBS! Ändrat ordning för att stämma med förteckningen på sidan 9.