



HÖGSKOLAN I GÄVLE

PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

SECOND CYCLE

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIALIST
NURSING - ELDERLY CARE**

Programme Code: VASVM

Established by the Board of Humanities, Care and
Social Sciences 2007-02-01

Programme Syllabus

**Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care -
Specialist Nursing, 60 HE credits**

(Specialistsjuksköterskeprogrammet, 60 hp)

**This programme syllabus applies to students
admitted to the autumn semester of 2010 or later.**

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIALIST NURSING
- ELDERLY CARE
at Högskolan i Gävle**

1 General Arrangement

The education includes 60 HE credits of second-cycle studies and contains both theoretical and practical education elements. The main field of study of the programme is caring science.

The education is carried out as a national web-based programme in collaboration between Högskolan i Gävle (HiG), Luleå tekniska universitet (Ltu), Mittuniversitetet (Miun), Sophiahemmet högskola (SHH) and Umeå Universitet (UmU).

Completed programme results in a Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care Specialist Nursing, after successful completion of required courses.

2 Expected Learning Outcomes

The Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care Specialist Nursing follows the aims stated in the Higher Education Act [HL] and the Higher Education Ordinance [HF].

2.1 Expected Learning Outcomes for Second-cycle Studies According to HL

Second-cycle courses and study programmes should essentially develop the knowledge acquired by the students in first-cycle courses and study programmes or equivalent knowledge.

Second-cycle courses and study programmes shall imply a specialisation of knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to first-cycle studies, and in addition to the requirements of first-cycle studies, be able to

- further develop the students' ability to independently integrate and use knowledge,
- develop the students' ability to handle complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- improve students' conditions for working in sectors with high demands on autonomy or for research and development. (chapter 1, section 9 HL)

2.2 Expected Learning Outcomes for Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing According to HF

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student should demonstrate the knowledge and abilities required in order to work independently as a nurse practitioner.

Knowledge and Understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific foundation of the field and understanding of current research and development, and knowledge of the relationship between science and best practice and the importance of the relationship for practising the profession, and
- demonstrate advanced knowledge in planning, management and coordination of health care.

Skills and Abilities

- demonstrate an advanced ability to independently, and in collaboration with patients and kindred, identify care needs and establish a care plan.
 - demonstrate the ability to lead and evaluate care measures,
 - demonstrate an advanced ability to initiate, carry out and evaluate health promoting and preventive work
 - demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and handle complex issues and situations,
 - demonstrate the ability to participate in and independently carry out examinations and treatment including terminal care, and
 - show nursing educational ability.
- **Judgement and Approach**
- demonstrate self-knowledge and empathy,
 - with a comprehensive view of the human being, demonstrate the ability to make assessments based on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects with specific consideration to human rights
 - show a professional attitude towards patients and kindred, and
 - demonstrate the ability to identify the own need of additional knowledge and to continuously develop the own skills.

To receive a Graduate Diploma Elderly Care Specialist Nursing, the student should also,

- demonstrate the ability to independently assess, plan, carry out and evaluate the measures needed in order to promote physical, psychological and social health and prevent illness and complications due to illness, and
- demonstrate the ability to observe and assess complex needs of care and rehabilitation in older patients. (appendix 2, HF)

2.3 Expected Learning Outcomes for a Master's Degree According to HF

Knowledge and Understanding

- show knowledge and understanding of the programme's main field of study, including both an overview of the field and advanced knowledge of certain parts of the field, and understanding of current research and development, and
- demonstrate advanced method knowledge within the main field of study.

Skills and Abilities

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations also with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify and formulate questions and to plan and carry out qualified assignments with adequate methods within given periods of time
- demonstrate the ability to clearly account for and discuss, orally and in writing, the own conclusions and the knowledge and arguments that constitute the basis for these in dialogue with different groups, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development or to work with other qualified activities.

Judgement and Approach

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments considering relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects within the main field of study, and show awareness of the ethical aspects of research and development
- demonstrate an understanding of the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the own need of additional knowledge and to take responsibility for the own knowledge development.

2.4 Local Learning Outcomes for Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care Specialist Nursing (in addition to the learning outcomes stated in HL and HF)

To receive a Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care Specialist Nursing, the student should demonstrate

- advanced knowledge in gerontology to independently assess needs, plan and evaluate nursing actions to support elderly in their natural ageing,
- advanced knowledge of the medical consequences of ageing in relation to nursing, and developed ability to collect, analyse and communicate medical information to independently, and in an inter-professional cooperation, be able to treat elderly with illnesses and evaluate the effects of the treatment
- the ability to use a life-world perspective to develop individual nursing of elderly,
- the ability to make ethical considerations in the meeting with elderly and their kindred, and the ability to reflect on and assess professional-ethical guidelines such as quality requirements for the nursing of elderly,
- advanced knowledge of organisation, leadership and current regulatory framework in the field, and the knowledge of supervising should be able to be converted into practice in order to assess and apply nursing supervision in the daily work,
- advanced knowledge within palliative care, based on the palliative nursing philosophy, in order to assess, evaluate, prioritise and handle the patient's needs regarding incurable illnesses, and understand and handle the families' need of support. The student should also be able to analyse and reflect on how nursing-scientific research may be applied and developed in palliative care.

3 Description of the Programme

3.1 Contents and Arrangement

The education is organised as a distance education of 60 HE credits. The programme is carried out as part-time studies and is mainly web-based. The students will be divided into study groups.

The profession of the nurse practitioner is exercised based on science and best practice within the framework of health care ethics. Nursing of elderly contains both a theoretical and a practical dimension and concerns physical, spiritual, social and mental aspects. The aim is to create conditions for lifelong development, health, reduced suffering and dignified dying. Nursing of elderly focusses on individuals' specific needs with consideration to differences in cultural background, age, sex and social conditions.

The education integrates theoretical and practical knowledge. Each module contains both theoretical and practical parts, where the student to a varying extent combines placement and

theoretical studies. The student should be developed into a nurse that can make independent assessments, with capable of critical thinking and problem-solving and with developed ability to cooperate with other professions.

An individual assignment of 15 HE credits is included, where the student develops the knowledge within a chosen field in nursing/caring science with a specialisation in elderly care. For the implementation of the independent work, a supervisor is appointed to every student from one of the included departments in relation to the specialisation of the work

Students following the study programme are guaranteed admission to the courses given within the programme at collaborating higher education institutions. In the course syllabus, the entry requirements applying to the respective courses are stated. Elective course is included in the programme.

3.2 Working Methods

The education is carried out as half-time distance studies. The teaching is based on the students' previous knowledge and experiences in the area. The education is organised in collaboration between five higher education institutions, with integration of different information and communication technologies in a common virtual education environment for the purpose of creating the optimal conditions for learning

The studies are characterised by active knowledge acquisition, problem-solving and reflection. The working methods vary between individual work, work in study groups, method exercises, seminars and lectures. Supervision takes place continuously throughout the education, both individually and in groups.

The student has the opportunity to locate part of the education abroad.

3.3 Placement

Placement is integrated in all courses.

3.4 Student Influence

The students have influence through representatives from the students' union in advisory and decision-making bodies at the included higher education institutions and through formative and summative course evaluations.

In all courses, evaluations are carried out, where students together with course coordinators carry out common quality development.

3.5 Internationalisation

Regardless of workplace, the nurse within care of elderly needs transcultural and inter-cultural competence. Internationalisation in different forms intends to provide increased understanding in a global perspective.

4 Courses within the Programme

S = Second Cycle

Period	Course Code	Course Name	HE credits	Level	Main Field of Study *
1:1	VV300D	Nursing Care Focussed on Ageing Well (given by HiG)	7.5	S	Caring Science
1:1		Geriatric Care - Diagnostics, Treatment and Nursing (given by UmU)	7.5	S	Nursing Science
1.1		Dignity and Well-being in Ageing (given by Ltu)	7.5	S	Nursing Science
1:1		Organisation, Management and Development of Nursing (given by Miun)	7.5	S	Nursing Science
1:2		Palliative Care (given by SHH)	7.5	S	Nursing Science
1:2	VV302D	Elective Course in Elderly Care	7.5	S	Nursing Science Caring Science
1:2	VV301D	Degree Project in Elderly Care (given by all higher education institutions)	15.0	S	Caring Science

* The main field of study is named differently in each higher education institution, either nursing or caring science.

5 Entry Requirements

Those who have acquired professional status qualification as a nurse, awarded by the National Board of Health and Welfare, are qualified for admission to the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing.

Specific entry requirements - Högskolan i Gävle

- degree in nursing of 120 credit points/180 HE credits or a bachelor's degree in nursing of at least 180 HE credits or equivalent foreign higher education qualification.

If the formal entry requirements are not fulfilled, other relevant knowledge and experiences, so-called prior learning, may be tried.

6 Grades

Grades are given for the courses included in the programme, according to current syllabus.

7 Examination Regulations

7.1 Title of Qualification

7.1.1 Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care Specialist Nursing

7.1.2 Students also have the opportunity to receive a master's degree in caring science according to the aims of the Degree Ordinance, appendix 2, the Higher Education Ordinance 1993:100.

7.2 Qualification Criteria

Graduate Diploma in Elderly Care Specialist Nursing is achieved when the student has successfully completed required courses of 60 HE credits. In addition, professional status qualification as a nurse, awarded by the National Board of Health and Welfare, is required.

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student should have successfully completed a practical part of the education, to an extent adapted to the needs of the respective specialisation.

A master's degree is achieved when the student has successfully completed required courses of 60 HE credits with a certain specialisation decided by each higher education institution, of which at least 30 HE credits is an advanced study within the main field of study for the education. In addition, awarded bachelor's degree, bachelor of fine arts, professional qualification of at least 180 HE credits or equivalent foreign higher education qualification is required.¹

Thesis (degree project)

For a Graduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing, the student must have successfully completed an individual assignment (degree project) within the framework of the required courses

For a master's degree, the student must have successfully completed an individual assignment (degree project) within the framework of the required courses, of at least 15 HE credits, within the main field of study of the education.

7.3 Degree Certificates

Students who fulfil the requirements for higher education qualification should receive a degree certificate on request. In the degree certificate, the specialisation of the education should be stated.

¹ Exceptions from the higher education qualification requirement may be made for students who have been admitted to the programme without fulfilling the general entry requirements in the form of a higher education qualification. However, this does not apply if by the time of admission, exceptions have been made according to chapter 7, section 28, second paragraph, due to the fact that the certificate has not yet been awarded. (SFS 2006:1053)

8 Further Instructions

8.1 Interim Regulations

This programme syllabus is valid from the autumn semester of 2007.

Those who have started the programme in the autumn semester of 2007 have the right to complete it, in accordance with the programme syllabus established before September 2007 at the latest, until the expiration in January 2010.

Those who have started the programme in the autumn semester of 2008 have the right to complete it, in accordance with the programme syllabus established before September 2007 at the latest, until the expiration in January 2011.

8.2 Renewed Examination

Theoretical Education

Examination is planned so that the student may follow the programme. For students who have not utilised or who have failed the regular examination are given the opportunity of five re-examinations. Students who have not passed a course after three examinations (the regular examination and the following two re-examinations) are referred to study guidance. If compulsory parts of a course are not approved, the forms for renewed assessment are decided by the examiner.

Students who have not passed after two examinations have the right to another examiner.

Placement

Students who have failed the placement have the right to go through the education once more within the concerned area of activity. Students who have failed after renewed education are referred to study guidance.

8.3 Approved Leave from Studies

The study guidance grants approved leave from studies based on the regulations of the National Agency for Higher Education.

Students who have had approved leave from studies and who have followed an earlier programme syllabus and want to resume the studies, have the possibility to follow this programme syllabus based on an adapted study path.