Course Specification

Published Date:	06-Aug-2024
Produced By:	Multi Type Usr Record For All Personnel
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Nursing		
Course Code(s):	NH143P01UM	Full-time	1 Years
Course Title:	Postgraduate Diploma Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification District Nursing		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (District Nursing) Postgraduate Certificate Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (District Nursing) University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	09/Sep/2024		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:			
Course Specification valid to:	2029/0		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Joanne Bladen
Head of Department:	

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

- NMC registered nurse (level 1) with at least one year's post registration experience with relevant professional registration, capable of safe and effective practice at the level of proficiency appropriate to the NMC approved community nursing specialist practice qualification (SPQ) Programme.
- Applicants must possess level 2/GCSE at grade C+/4 in an English based subject and math or equivalent. Applicants that do not meet this entry criteria will be signposted to the university's study skills GCSE Equivalency Courses.
- Provide evidence of degree level study or the ability to study at academic level 7 *.
- Applicants must provide an employer reference and evidence of a full-time post with an appropriate community nursing placement for the duration of the programme with support of the employer to provide protected learning time to complete the programme.
- Self-funding and self-employed applicants must provide evidence of a suitable community nursing placement for the duration of the programme.
- Applicants will be required to provide a signed declaration of good health and character signed by applicant and employer in line with NMC guidance (NMC, 2019). This will be verified by the programme lead and admissions team during the admission process. Self-employed/self-funding applicants will be given the opportunity of applying for enhanced DBS via the university DBS team (nominal fee applies).
- As part of the SPQ programme you will be undertaking the NMC approved independent/supplementary V300 prescribing programme (V300), for this applicant must have been registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry onto the SPQ programme. You will also require an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme who is willing to assess you for 90 hours of prescribing practice. Upon application you are requested to complete a Prescribing Entry Requirements (PER) form to verify eligibility.
- You will require a practice assessor who is an experienced registered nurse with an SPQ qualification to support you throughout the programme (in accordance with *Standards for Supervision and Assessment,* NMC 2018). You will provide details of your practice assessor which will be verified by the programme lead.
- District nursing students will have supernumerary status throughout the programme.
- Recognition of prior learning (RPL) will be considered on an individual basis as per the University's RPL guidance and professional regulation standards for post registration programmes (NMC, 2022).

Please note: You must provide information to satisfy all of the above criteria on application for the programme. If you cannot provide this information, your application will not be processed.

*Applicants that are not able to provide evidence of prior learning at level 7 will be signposted to CPDNavigator CPDNavigator@wlv.ac.uk

Distinctive Features of the Course:

Students accessing this programme will be from a wide range of areas within the West Midlands. Networking between students is encouraged and considered to be a strength of the programme as evidenced in previous student programme evaluations. To allow for collaborative engagement, the programme is run concurrently with the PGDip Specialist Community Nursing - General Practice Nursing, Specialist Community Public Health (SCPHN) Health Visiting and School Nursing programmes.

As specialists in community nursing District Nursing (DN) and General Practice Nursing (GPN) hold similar generalist skills and support the delivery of healthcare within the same practice population in primary care and it is therefore important that they learn and share ideas together within modules. This is important as their roles support the shift of care from secondary to primary care and hence there is a crossover within certain field specific modules.

Each discipline has specific differences that can complement each other's learning for example DN's work is more focused on care of the housebound, elderly, vulnerable and disabled people while GPN have experiences to share in aspects of screening, triage and urgent care across the life programme.

Within the shared theoretical perspective DN's and GPN's alignment is in understanding each other's roles and responsibilities that can be seen in policy and guidelines of practice. While the two disciplines share debates and discussions, they are able to promote individual learning which is field specific in their health assessment module where they are required to present a specific case study relevant to their practice area.

In clinical practice students will have the opportunity to experience a minimum of 5 alternative placement experiences in order to enable them to experience the breadth of health care services relating to their field of practice. This provides an opportunity for collaborative working across multi-professionals that enhance the understanding of differing roles within the primary healthcare arena.

In addition, students will be able to undertake the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing qualification as part of the award leading to an additional annotation on the NMC register on successful completion of the award.

This award is studied on a 1-year full time basis of study encompassing the benefits of supernumerary status throughout their clinical placement.

The programme also benefits from:

- A designated full-time member of staff who acts as programme 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, the programme leader and programme team have engaged in research, published books, chapters and journal articles within the subject area, act as external examiners for other HEI's and are members of national professional groups and forums bringing a depth of knowledge and experience.
- Service user involvement to ensure that the experiences of patients and their carers/families are integrated into the programme.
- Links and knowledge from local, national, and international research initiatives undertaken in the Institute of Health and the wider University research.
- Innovation on the programme is strongly encouraged and several students have gone on to win regional and national awards for work initiated on previous programmes.

Course design was developed in close collaboration with key learning partners, previous students and stakeholders across local regions adding an experiential perspective and enhancing the student journey.

Following successful completion of the Post Graduate Diploma students will be able to register to undertake a dissertation module to complete a full master's award. This is the top-up for the academic aspect of the programme and is separately funded and has a separate application process.

Educational Aims of the Course:

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 and synthesise advanced levels of assessment of needs within the context of primary care and public health utilising bio-psychosocial perspectives.
3. Develop and enhance leadership and management skills within the context of population health of primary care, with a focus on inclusion, equality, diversity and cultural competence, promoting independence, and preventing ill health.
4. Advance highly skilled practitioners in complex clinical decision making, risk management and pro-

actively advocating in partnership with people in their care.
5. Provide the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary and inter-professional working practices to lead improvements for the services they work within.
6. Enable practitioners to adopt critical reflective practice and lifelong learning that fosters a spirit of scientific enquiry and evidence-based care that promotes personal and professional development.
7. Equip practitioners with cognitive knowledge and skills to lead, innovate and contribute to an evidence base of practice to benefit people and their communities.
8. Support practitioners to work within professional codes and standards of practice to protect human rights and promote equality in the safe delivery of health care as independent and autonomous practitioners.
9. To develop and integrate the underpinning theory and practice to prepare Specialist Practitioners to prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively within their field of practice and utilising current supporting guidelines, policies and frameworks.

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
No related data			

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7NH106	Leading Public Health in Specialist Practice	20	INYR	Core
7NH035	Developing History Taking and Physical Assessment Skills for the Adult Patient / Client	20	INYR	Core
7NH114	Contemporary Issues in Specialist Community Nursing District Nursing/General Practice Nursing	0	CRYRA	Core
7NH110	Integrated working to support people with long-term conditions (District Nursing)	20	SEM1	Core
7NH103	Evidenced-based Practice for Specialist Practitioners	20	INYR	Core
7NH094	Non-Medical Prescribing for Nurses Midwives and Allied Health Professionals	40	CRYRA	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

1.2.6 The delivery calendar for this course does not conform to the standard University academic calendar. The course is delivered to align with the recruitment expectations of our practice learning partners in order to accommodate 'practice referrals' which can extend registration beyond the normal 12 months in duration over the three semesters (to a maximum of two years) allowing for any resits for the modules. A delivery calendar, specific to this course, will be provided to students.

1.2.7 The taught component will run within semester 1 and 2 and semester 3 is for consolidation in clinical practice.

1.2.8 This course does not meet the 33% differentiation regulation due to the sharing of theory modules across the General Practice and District Nursing courses.

4.5.5 In order to meet professional standards for this course there will be no retake opportunities for modules.

Approved April 2024

Reference Points:

https://www.wlv.ac.uk/media/departments/compliance-team-/University-Academic-Regulations-2023-2024-(Postgraduate-20-credits).pdf

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Inclusive Framework: principles and sub-principles (wlv.ac.uk)

Equality Act (2010)

Wolverhampton Framework for course design

Student Handbook - University of Wolverhampton (wlv.ac.uk)

Nursing and Midwifery Council Regulatory Standards:

- The Code (2018)
- Part 1: Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (2023)
- Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment (2018)
- Part 3: Programme standards for post-registration programmes (2022)
- Part 3: Standards for prescribing programmes (2023)
- Standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualifications (2022)

- QNI Field specific standards (District Nursing) (2023)

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
PGDIP01 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: - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.	
PGDIP02 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.	
PGDIP03 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.	
PGDIP04 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.	
PGDIP05 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	
PGDIP06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations. - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.	

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

This programme runs over 52 weeks and is run alongside PG Diploma Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification General Practice Nursing/ SCPHN Health Visiting and School Nursing programmes and includes:

- 3-day induction at the university
- Core and field specific taught modules across semester 1/2
- Practice component in semester 3

We will support and guide your learning using blended learning approaches including:

Theoretical Activities: The theoretical aspects of the award will comprise of the following learning activities:

- Lectures using a variety of interactive learning methods that are supported by digital technology to enhance your learning.
- Debate and dialogue – the University virtual learning platform will provide a forum for you to engage in dialogue with other students in your group as well as the lecturers.
- Case studies

- Group work activities where you will have the opportunity to discuss your personal experiences and reflections on timetabled topics.
- Skills workshops

Practice Learning – You will be expected to undertake a minimum 125 days in clinical practice this will include 90 hours of supervised prescribing practice in order to meet the V300 prescribing requirements. There will be supervised teaching and assessment in practice in order for you to develop your knowledge and skills in this professional field of practice. You will be supervised by a practice - based assessor/ supervisor who will support and guide you through the process along with providing constructive feedback on your development. You will be expected to maintain an ongoing record of achievement (practice assessment document) which will confirm that you have met the NMC standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualification. This will show progression of knowledge and skills through to independent practice.

Simulated practice learning – within the curriculum there will be opportunities to work with your peers to consider case studies for example, bio-psychosocial elements of patient and carer experiences and new models of care with frailty pathways and complex needs.

Independent and self-directed learning – this is an important aspect of post graduate study and throughout the modules you will be encouraged to become an independent learner, able to decide what to learn and how best to achieve this considering your prior learning and experiences.

Module development, teaching, learning and assessment strategies have been informed by the University's Inclusive Framework: Curriculum Design and Delivery. Modules are credit bearing and will identify specified learning outcomes. Academic performance will be monitored through assessment of each module. Different assessment methods have been utilised in order to bring a variety to the programme overall and meet the different learning styles of students.

You will be assessed at an academic level 7; you will be offered the opportunity to submit through Turnitin for formative assessment and feedback.

You will receive feedback on your progress throughout your programme. Feedback on formative (developmental work) will be provided through peer review, verbal feedback on skills performance and group/individual presentations and, in some instances written feedback will be provided. Feedback on summative assessments will be provided in written form on electronically submitted work in canvas.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support

The University Library is the key source of academic information for students. The Library provides access to a wide range of online information sources, including e-books, e-journals and subject databases as well as printed material. Study spaces are available in each of our libraries, including social, quiet and silent areas. In addition to our day to day 'on campus' support, please use our 24/7 online chat service Library Assist.

The University Library also provides students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help with topics such as academic writing and referencing. This support is available both on campus and online from Skills for Learning.

Student Support

The University Student Support website offers advice on a variety of matters linked to Health and Wellbeing.

Please contact the Team to:

- discuss disability or Specific Learning Difference (SpLD) support
- seek advice as a deaf or hearing impaired student
- access information about supporting your mental health and wellbeing
- connect with our Chaplaincy service.
- seek advice on funding and financial support

Disability or Specific Learning Difference

The university is an inclusive institution and works to meet individual needs of our students. Our Disability Advice service are here to help with any queries and to support students with specific individual needs.

Working in partnership with you

The pathway towards achieving your Post Graduate Diploma is one with highs, lows and everything in between. However, you are not alone! Obtaining your qualification is a partnership between the University and you. The student engagement policy sets of your key responsibilities to assist you to achieve the best possible outcomes of your study with us.

Student Advisors:

ASK@WLV is the first point of contact for all student queries and can be accessed any time online and over the phone or on-campus, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm. We can help you access wellbeing support services, complete your enrolment and module registration, and understand your programme's rules and regulations. Our friendly and knowledgeable team of advisors are here to help you get the support you need to make the most out of your time at university. If you have any questions, need help or advice then ASK@WLV is there for you: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/.

Programme Specific Support

Personal Tutors

You will be allocated a personal tutor at the start of your programme with whom you will build and develop a relationship to help you work towards achieving the programme learning outcomes. Your personal tutor will meet with you on a regular basis (at least three times per academic year) in order to offer support, identify if you are making satisfactory progress and to offer support if you are at risk of withdrawal. Your personal tutor will assist you in your personal and academic development, planning and progression as well as helping you liaise with other staff and support facilities in their Faculty and the wider University. You can find out who your personal tutor is by visiting your E-Vision account.

Module leaders

Your module leaders are your first point of contact for everything module related whether that's help with a particular part of the module or advice on how to complete the assessment. Module leaders will usually be able to schedule a meeting with you via phone, MS Teams or face to face appointments. A list of module leaders is available in your Programme Guides, along with their contact details.

Programme leaders

The programme leader has overall responsibility for your programme and the enrolled students. They monitor the quality of the programme through programme committees which collect feedback from staff and students. They manage the academic programme of study and are responsible for reporting any issues raised and examples of good practice.

Practice Assessor

You will be supported by a work-based Practice Assessor aligning to the NMC standards for student supervision and assessment (2018). This person must be an experienced registered Community SPQ nurse that holds experience in District Nursing. They will assess your practice learning against the NMC Programme Standards (2022). They must be identified during the application process for the programme and will serve as a point of contact for your Academic Assessor.

Practice Supervisor

Within District Nursing you will be part of a multi-disciplinary team who you will be able to learn from. Supervisors in practice will be able to support your learning and provide feedback of your attainment to your designated Practice Assessor.

Academic Assessor

You will be allocated an academic assessor at the start of the programme with whom you will build and develop a therapeutic relationship. They will support your development of knowledge and skills and offer guidance and support for you and your practice assessor / supervisor.

For the purpose of the V300 you may be allocated an appropriate AA from the V300 team.

We offer a variety of learning resources to help you progress. Our virtual learning platform 'Canvas' will hold learning resources, reading lists and all programme material for each module.

Employability in the Curriculum:

This programme has been developed in conjunction with stakeholders/partners and service users in order to reflect the increasing and rapidly changing complex environment in which health care takes place. The educational philosophy of the programme aims to develop and demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment within district nursing requiring:

- The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
- The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Throughout the programme you will have the opportunity of advancing your level of practice, develop and demonstrate a number of key skills to enhance your current and future employability within District Nursing and Community care by

- Undertaking holistic assessment of individuals and use advanced decision making to

  promote person-centred care across the life programme.

- Act as a role model within teams of regulated and non-regulated staff demonstrating leadership values and behaviours.
- Act as an innovator to creatively improve quality of care.
- Collaborate with senior leaders to develop and implement policy using current

  evidence -base for sustainable healthcare.

Completion of the programme will enable you to work independently and autonomously as a Specialist Practitioner in District Nursing within professional, legislative boundaries in primary care. Competencies gained within this programme will enable you to meet the workforce demands within District Nursing and

Community Care enhancing your employability.

You are advised that the community nursing SPQ award must be registered with NMC within 5 years of successfully completing the programme. Failure to do this you will be required to undertake additional education and training or gain such experience as specified in NMC for the award to be added as an annotation to the professional register.

This also applies if you have undertaken the NMC approved independent/supplementary prescribing qualification (V300). Failure to do this you will be required to retake and successfully complete the programme (V300) in order to qualify as a prescriber.

