



Module Descriptor

Title	Biosciences for Health		
Session	2025/26	Status	Published
Code	NURS07061	SCQF Level	7
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	Louise Edgar		

Summary of Module

This module is shared with students on both the BSc Adult Nursing (with or without Honours) and BSc Mental Health Nursing (with or without Honours) programmes. It shall introduce students to the biosciences which are fundamental to nursing care. The focus of this module in Part 1 is to introduce students to the normal working anatomy and physiology of the major body systems. Students will be introduced to the body by considering cells, tissues and systems and will also be introduced to genetics. Linking to clinical practice, students will be introduced to key concepts from microbiology, including healthcare acquired infections. They will develop understanding around the key principles of infection control in clinical settings.

Students will also be introduced to pharmacology in this module. This will include content on metabolism and becoming familiar with the British National Formulary (BNF).

In preparation for students' first practice learning experience, this module will include relevant nursing skills and procedures. The module aims to make clear links for students between the biosciences and the nursing skills and procedures they will routinely be engaged with (e.g. the cardiovascular system and recording pulses and blood pressure).

Nursing skills and procedures will include taking and documenting vital signs, basic life support, introduction to patient assessment, handwashing, specimen collection and drug administration.

Formative opportunities will be provided during this module in a variety of mechanisms which may include: feedback on classroom-based activities from academics and/or peers, feedback on performance of nursing skills and procedures, feedback on assessment plans or short pieces of formative work and feedback from wider university support services (e.g. Academic skills team).

Educate students to understand how anatomy, and physiology including pharmacology (safe medicine practices), infection control practice and evidence-based knowledge, which informs nursing skills and practices. This module contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2023) SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG - 4 and Quality Education, whilst also aligning to the graduate attributes of UWS; universal, work-ready and successful.

United Nations (2023) Sustainable Development: The 17 Goals. Available from: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	Hybrid² <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online³ <input type="checkbox"/>	Work -Based Learning⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>		
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dumfries		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Understand the fundamental anatomy and physiology of the major body systems
L2	Outline the standard precautions for infection control
L3	Outline the fundamental pharmacological principles that underpin safe medicine administration and optimisation
L4	Demonstrate the application of evidence based knowledge to nursing skills and procedures
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF 7 Knowledge and understanding of the normal anatomy and physiology of major body systems. Knowledge and understanding of key concepts and principles in microbiology and infection control. Introductory knowledge and understanding of pharmacology and medicine management.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 7 Application of knowledge and understanding of nursing skills and procedures commonly encountered in clinical practice and relevant for level 7 nursing students.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 7

¹ Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

² The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

³ Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

⁴ Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	Development of generic cognitive skills such as problem solving and decision making. Interpretation and analysis of evidence and clinical data obtained during clinical skills teaching and scenarios.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 7 Engage with a range of technologies to enhance independent learning. Develop a range of communication and interpersonal skills, with a variety of stakeholders (eg student peers, lecturers and in simulation, with the patient). Use a range of numerical skills in relation to measurement and recording of various patient parameters. Understanding of medical and nursing terminology linked to professional communication.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 7 Developing self-confidence and self-efficacy. Developing professional accountability and an appreciation of their role within the class, group work and when in the clinical skills laboratories.

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching	
<p>In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.</p> <p>You will be taught through a combination of lectures, tutorials, workshops and, if part of this module, guided activity in our clinical skills laboratories. This will be supported by materials hosted on our virtual learning environment. Your time on campus is also designed to support your professional development as you work towards becoming a Registered Nurse. Group work, role play, and presentations help you to develop the communication, teamworking and leadership skills needed for professional practice.</p>	
Learning Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	20
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	10
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	18
Personal Development Plan	3
Independent Study	149
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018) The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates. Available at <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/code/> (Accessed: 07 January 2025).

Delves-Yates, C. (ed.) (2022) Essentials of Nursing Practice. 3rd edn. London: SAGE Publications.

Rowberry, D., Gauntlett, L. & Hurt, L. (eds.) (2023) Essential Clinical Skills in Nursing. London: SAGE Publications.

Cook, N. & Shepherd, A. (eds) (2024) Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology for Nursing Practice. 3rd edn. London: SAGE Publications.

Barber, P. & Robertson, D. (2020) Essentials of Pharmacology for Nurses. 4th edn. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Boyd, C. (2022) Medicine Management Skills for Nurses. 2nd edn. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

Dougherty, L. & Lister, SE. (2011) The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of clinical nursing procedures: student edition. 8th edn. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the [Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure](#), Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council require that students complete 2300 hours of theoretical preparation. Therefore, there is an expectation that all students attend all scheduled activities associated with the module. This includes on campus and synchronous online activities.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

This module is appropriate for all students. In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. To promote inclusive practice, procedures and processes have been subject to Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate. In line with the Equality Act 2010 and UWS Refreshed Equality Outcomes 2021 - 2025 Public Sector Equality Duty Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes Report 2021 ([uws.ac.uk](https://www.uws.ac.uk)) (pp. 37 - 39) the School of Health and Life Sciences encourages the disclosure of support requirements, including disability, at the recruitment stage and throughout the duration of the module. Emphasis is placed on confidentiality of information, the benefits of disclosure, and that no detriment to progress will be experienced. The School will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to teaching and learning approaches and arrangements for assessment, and (when applicable) periods of placement, where appropriate.

All learning materials, activities and scenarios will utilise a diverse range of patients to reflect the diversity of students.

Professional programmes have Standards of Proficiency which detail the knowledge, skills and understanding required to be met to permit professional registration to be able to practise safely and effectively in the profession. As an education provider for this professional programme, UWS is not able to adjust these standards. However, we can make reasonable adjustments to assist students in meeting these standards.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (2019) have additional information regarding reasonable adjustments which can be found here: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/supporting-information-on-standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/student-empowerment/what-to-expect/reasonable-adjustments-if-applicable/>

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Adult Nursing Community Health
Overall Assessment Results	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	Pre-registration Adult Nursing
Moderator	Petra Gregson
External Examiner	TBC
Accreditation Details	NMC
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Class test - with various question types

Assessment 2

Assessment 3

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.
(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Class test (written)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	100	1

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Combined total for all components						100%	1 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who