Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session	2026/27	**Last Modified**	25/11/24
Named Award Title	Cert HE Preparing for Healthcare Studies		
Award Title for Each Award	Cert HE Preparing for Healthcare Studies		
Date of Approval	February 2025		
Details of Cohort Applies to	All new and existing cohorts		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by			
Maximum Period of Registration		2 years	
Duration of Study			
Full-time	1 year	**Part-time**	
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☐ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	**Health and Life Sciences**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Mental Health Nursing Midwifery Health**		
Programme Leader	Angela Quigley		

Admissions Criteria
Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

SQA National Qualifications:

Scottish Higher – BCC plus
• National 5 Maths and English Grade C or equivalent OR
• BC plus First Steps to Nursing plus, National 5 English and Maths at Grade C or equivalent

Or GCE

Or SQA National Qualifications / Edexcel Foundation

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
• UCAS Tariff - 69 points
• A level - CDD
including, Biology/Human Biology, plus GCSE English Language/English Literature and Maths at Grade C/5 or above
• Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017) - H3, H4, H4, H4 plus, Maths and English at Grade O5 or above

In addition, offers of a place on this programme may be made to applicants interested in one of UWS's undergraduate adult nursing, mental health nursing, midwifery or paramedic science programme's who have not been offered a place, providing them with the opportunity to build foundational knowledge and transferrable skills for a future application.

Entry to the professional body approved programmes is subject to health screening and membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme but is not a requirement for this programme.

No articulation routes are planned for this programme.

Further desirable skills pre-application

General Overview
This one year programme will prepare you for further study on a range of professional health care or biological science programmes.

The programme will develop your knowledge in foundational biology theory and skills and health and social care. You will have the opportunity to extend your academic, professional and personal skills and attributes, preparing you to make the most of your experience at the University of the West of Scotland. You will have the chance to explore your aspirations for university study and think about how your programme connects to other aspects of your personal and professional life. An opportunity to gain confidence developing the skills, knowledge and personal qualities that will prepare you for further undergraduate study.

Successful completion of the Cert HE will enhance your application for further study on a range of programmes in the School of Health and Life Science. You will be supported to make an application for level 7 entry to our professional degree programmes such as Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Midwifery or Paramedic Science. Normal application and selection processes will apply however you will be guaranteed an interview. Please note entry to the professional body approved programmes is subject to health screening and membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

The programme will also prepare you for further study in a range of biological science programmes such as Biomedical Science, Applied Bioscience and Zoology, Applied Bioscience with Forensic Investigation, Environmental Science and Sustainability or Collaborative Health and Social Care. Entry to all programmes will be subject to meeting the entry criteria.

Typical Delivery Method

This module is delivered on campus. Students will attend lectures, practical laboratories, tutorials and workshops and participate in both independent and group work-based activities. Students are expected to extend their learning through independent study supported by the VLE.

Any additional costs

Students must provide their own laboratory coat for use in the practical sessions. Safety glasses/ goggles must also be worn in all practical sessions. Students can bring their own safety glasses, but these can be provided by the technical staff in the laboratories.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

Graduate attributes can be defined as the skills, personal qualities and understanding to be developed through the Higher Education experiences to prepare graduates for life and work in the 21st century. Through studying on this UWS programme, graduates will develop attributes across the three dimensions which encapsulate the breadth of the learning experience at university level 7:Academic, Personal and Professional. UWS 'I am UWS' graduate attributes have been developed to reflect the vision that students are Universal, Work Ready and Successful. This is achieved by ensuring the programme can develop relevant academic, personal, and professional attributes within those students undertaking the programme. The 'I am UWS' graduate attributes are incorporated within each module descriptor and associated assessments.

Graduate Attributes
To prepare students who are fit for award:
1. To equip the student with enhanced graduate and employability skills and the ability to plan a career pathway in the context of a dynamic and evolving health and social care environment.
2. To develop safe, proficient and adaptable students who can engage in further academic study
3. To develop decision making skills and the ability to use enquiry, evidence and research mindedness to influence future academic study.
4. To foster a commitment to contemporary practice in health and social care to enable students to examine the underpinning and/or foundational models, philosophies and theoretical frameworks in biology, health and society.
5. To equip students to recognise the needs of the individual, their influence on other students and peers, their family and support networks and impact on the wider university, local community and society.

Employability Students who complete the Cert HE in Preparing for Healthcare Studies will be supported to apply for future study.

Personal Development Planning
Personal Development Planning (PDP) is embedded within the curriculum with clearly articulated links to module learning outcomes. The developmental process of PDP and the relevance of reflection are introduced to students as they begin their studies. A student centred approach to PDP is facilitated whilst undertaking the ASPIRE module on the programme. This aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore on their individual aspirations for university and think about how this connects to other aspects of their personal and professional life. Students will engage in a range of activities, including use goal setting and action planning strategies to direct their own learning on their academic journey. They will be supported and enabled to develop a supportive network in the UWS community to help them progress and succeed. Effective engagement with PDP activities remains an essential component of lifelong learning and continual and professional development. It facilitates the development of graduate attributes and is fundamentally about empowering, building realistic aspirations and motivating learners to enhanced achievement.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details
None

Attendance and Engagement
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

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

Engagement with all classes and asynchronous activities associated with the programme is required.

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.

At UWS and within the School of Health and Life Sciences we are committed to advancing and promoting equality and diversity in all of our activities and aim to establish an inclusive culture, free from discrimination and based upon the values of fairness, dignity and respect. We do this by promoting equality, valuing diversity and communicating the importance of dignity both at work and study. We are committed to enhancing wellbeing; see https://www.uws.ac.uk/current¬ students/supportingyour-health-wellbeing/ and have the structures, leadership and support in place to embed equality. For further information see https://www.uws.ac.uk/aboutuws/ uws-commitments/equality-diversity-inclusion/

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 7 Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental models, concepts and principles that inform contemporary healthcare studies.
A2	Demonstrate an understanding of Biosciences in the application of Healthcare studies.
A3	Demonstrate knowledge of successful academic practice and awareness of the research process and its link to evidence-based practice.
A4	Identify the determinants of health and wellbeing, including understanding of health inequalities and awareness of political and economic contributing factors locally, nationally, and internationally.
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate the fundamental and safe laboratory skills.
B2	Review research and evidence bases by demonstrating the use a range of electronic databases and academic sources in identifying and applying credible and contemporary evidence to improve knowledge.
B3	Work in partnership with people, including academic peers/ students to understand team dynamics, peer feedback and group learning/ collaborative approaches.
B4	Act on feedback and formative assessment to develop improved academic practice skills.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Show evidence of developing a range of communication and interpersonal skills which enhance interaction with peers and academic staff and preparation for future study.
C2	Demonstrate information literacy and the ability to search, interpret, extract and present information.
C3	Engage with the range of technology/eLearning that informsfuture study and develop the ability to enhance learning independently.
C4	Demonstrate numeracy skills, including interpreting accurately and recording numerical information to support laboratory based practical activities.
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Undertake literature searches to source and evaluate information/evidence that gives academic insight into current/new areas of study.
D2	Engage in reviewing practice using a problem-solving approach, and develop presentation, negotiation, and decision-making skills.

D3	Identify the application of theory and research in health and social care, and academic study.
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Work independently and take responsibility forindividual learning, knowing when and where to seek support, and develop the habit of lifelong learning.
E2	Engage in teamwork that involves collaborative working,setting, agreeing and meeting targets and outcomes, whilst managing relationships.
E3	Apply university academic standards in pursuit of knowledge and learning and engagement of study across learning environments, complying with university regulations and practices.
E4	Structure and communicate ideas effectively both verbally and in writing.
E5	

Level 7 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
7	APPD07001	Aspire: Foundations for Success	20	☒	☒	☐	
7	BIOL07023	Fundamentals of Life	40	☒	☐	☐	
7	NURS07043	Community Health & Social Care	20	☐	☒	☐	
7	BIOL07020	Diversity of Life	40	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 7 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 7 **Criteria for Progression and Award** *Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations*
Completion of all core modules at 120 Credits meets the award for a Cert HE of Preparation for Healthcare Studies A Cert HE Science is available in accordance with University regulations. (At least 120 credits are required of which a minimum of 90 are at least SCQF Level 7).

SCQF LEVEL 8 Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 8 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 8 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**Term**			**Footnotes**
				1	**2**	**3**	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 8 **Criteria for Progression and Award** *Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations*

SCQF LEVEL 9 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 9 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 9 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credit**	**Term**			**Footnotes**
				1	**2**	**3**	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 9 **Criteria for Progression and Award** ***Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations***

SCQF LEVEL 10 Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	
A2	
A3	
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	
B2	
B3	
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	
C2	
C3	
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	
D2	
D3	
D4	
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E5	

Level 10 Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 10 Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 10 **Criteria for Award** ***Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations***

Regulations of Assessment
Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework. An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies
There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61). For students studying BA, BAcc, or BD awards the award will be BA Combined Studies. For students studying BEng or BSc awards, the award will be BSc Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	**When**	**Who**