University of Sheffield

Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Nursing Associate		
2. Award type	Foundation Degree		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 5	**Mode of Study:** Full time	**Duration:** 2 years (Apprenticeship)
4. Faculty	Faculty of Health		
5. School	**Owning:** Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Midwifery		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 100290 **Percentage:** 100	**Code:** **Percentage:**	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code(s) (internal use)	HESU017		

9. Programme aims

The programme aims to:	
A1	To enable the Nursing Associate Apprentice to become compassionate, competent, and confident nursing associates at academic level 5, qualified to deliver a wide range of clinical care and interpersonal skills underpinned by a systematic knowledge base.
A2	The Nursing Associate Apprentice will be able to practice safely and effectively within their parameters of practice, demonstrating appropriate values and behaviours in a wide range of health and care settings.
A3	To enable the Nursing Associate Apprentice to achieve all the requirements as stated in the NMC's 2023 Standards for Pre-Registration Nursing Associates. This also includes the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours required as an apprentice under the NMC apprenticeship standard.

10. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	
K1	Critical understanding of relevant ethical and legal frameworks.
K2	Critical understanding of the impact of professional, political and national/local health service policies/standards/guidance on practice and care delivery.
K3	Critical understanding of the application of theory and evidence-based practice that informs person-centred care and management of patients across all stages of life and within a range of care settings.
K4	Critical understanding of the nursing associate contribution to inter-professional working.
K5	Critical application of problem-solving techniques in theory and practice.
K6	Critical understanding of safe and quality care in a range of settings.
K7	Critical understanding of being an accountable professional, the principles underpinning duty of care, equality and diversity and the need for candour, and consistently demonstrate the application of those principles in and across a range of settings across the life-course.
K8	Critical understanding of the best available evidence when providing and monitoring care.
K9	Across a range of audiences, demonstrate a critical understanding of teaching and learning within the nursing associate role, and the importance of being a positive role model.
K10	Critical understanding of the promotion of health, and prevention of ill health, health protection and public health in improving and maintaining the mental, physical, and behavioural health and well-being of people, families, carers and communities.
Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:	

S1	Ability to locate, review and reflect upon relevant literature and policy and its impact upon practice, and develop coherent evidence-based arguments.
S2	Demonstrate proficiency in communication and relationship management skills across all patient groups, and when working in teams in the practice and classroom settings.
S3	Demonstrate the nursing associate role in providing and monitoring care to individuals and groups, providing compassionate and safe nursing interventions.
S4	Have the ability to manage oneself and others in the context of continual change and challenging environments.
S5	Possess the professional values, attitudes, resilience and emotional intelligence expected of a nursing associate, and adapt behaviour appropriately when working with people.
S6	Demonstrate initiative when contributing to integrated care whilst assuming responsibility and being accountable for safe professional practice.
S7	Apply relevant knowledge to improve and maintain the mental, physical, and behavioural health and wellbeing of people, families, communities and populations within a local, national and global context.
S8	Demonstrate the safe and effective standard required for undertaking nursing procedures undertaken by the nursing associate whilst delivering holistic care.
S9	Demonstrate development of resilience and skills for lifelong learning.
S10	Demonstrate the ability to work in partnership with people to optimise health and wellbeing.
S11	Possess the skills and knowledge to improve safety and quality of care.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Lectures
Lectures will be the main form of delivery. This will ensure that you receive and take on board essential factual information to prepare you for the role of the nurse associate in the work-based learning environment. Lectures will be a mixture of face-to-face and virtual sessions. The principles of team-based learning will be developed in year one to start to develop problem solving skills, team working and communication skills for further development and application in year two. (K1-5)

Online study
Lectures will be supplemented, but not replaced by, online study materials and sessions, which will facilitate understanding of the professional requirements of the nursing associate role in order for you to develop the knowledge acquired through lectures further. This will be supported by discussions on Blackboard and during seminars. (K1-5 and S1-5)

Seminars
These are either staff or student led and are used throughout the programme but will vary depending on the module undertaken. They are designed to reinforce information imparted through lectures by allowing students to work through, analyse, understand, and respond to that information. They are used to enable students to make the link between theory and practice. Seminars will be a mixture of face-to-face and virtual.

When virtual, this will be via discussions on Blackboard as well as live discussions using Blackboard Collaborate. (K1-5 and S1-7)

Problem solving
Both individually and in small groups, these sessions will encourage critical reflection between theory and practice, in order to better prepare for undertaking the nursing associate role. (K1-5 and S1-7)

Tutorials
Will be utilised for pastoral discussion and personal development as well as academic support for assessed work. (K1-5 and S1-7)

Independent Study
Independent study is used: to assimilate and clarify material explored in lectures, to prepare for seminars, to prepare for assessments and to generally examine literature pertinent to the unit outcomes. (K 3-5 and S 1-7)

Clinical skills sessions
Evidence based practice sessions will be delivered by appropriately skilled teachers. The school has access to a clinical skills facility, and this is used to develop your clinical skills competence throughout the programme using simulation, Patients as Educators, and the experience of multiprofessional learning. (K3-5 and S1-7)

Practice Component

Practice Learning
You will spend a good deal of time in the work-based learning situation. You will be supported by appropriately prepared practice supervisors with whom you will work in order to develop your clinical practice. You will collate evidence to demonstrate learning and will be continually assessed in practice to strengthen the links between theory and evidence-based practice. All students are allocated an academic assessor at university, and a practice supervisor and practice assessor in the clinical setting. They will meet the student on a regular basis at pre-arranged times which provides the opportunity to discuss the student's academic and clinical progress, both face-to-face and digitally. (K1-5 and S1-7)

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Assessment Methods

We utilise a variety of assessment methods throughout the programme which include:

- a 2000-word essay exploring the critical role of academic skills and digital literacy in contemporary healthcare.
- a practical assessment with the University's Patients as Educators which prepares you to interact and communicate with patients, plus a personal reflection essay on the importance of good communication in nurse-patient interactions.
- multiple choice anatomy and physiology exams.
- a 2000-word case study plus an infographic based on a patient of your choice from your clinical practice area.
- the development of an educational resource aimed at patients or carers to assist in the self-management of a long-term condition plus a 10-minute presentation discussing the condition chosen and how the educational resource will support the patient/carer to manage their condition.
- health numeracy exam utilising a software platform called Safemedicate to prepare you for the administration of medications in the healthcare environment.

- a recorded 10-minute digital presentation using PowerPoint discussing a specific medication and its application within a specific patient scenario which you will choose from a predetermined list.
- a 2000-word assignment discussing the importance of evidence-based practice within the role of the nursing associate.
- a 3000-word assignment discussing an aspect of risk within your clinical practice setting, plus the development and presentation of a conference-quality poster on the topic of your assignment.
- completion of clinical practice documentation using an e-portfolio where the achievement of all practice-related assessments and proficiencies is documented.

Feedback methods
You will receive feedback on your written work and your practical assessments/presentation in a variety of formats, including in-text comments and an overall summary of your work which may be written and/or via voice recording. This summary is divided into sections which include what you have done well, and a guide as to how you can improve, providing you with recommendations as to how you achieve this. As an example, this could include information on arranging tutorial support with our Academic Study Skills Centre. Tutorial support from the module lead is also available as needed and is actively encouraged.

For the MCQ A&P exams and the Safemedicate exam, the correct answer will be provided following the marking of the exams. This will enable you to identify any errors made and allow you to review the teaching material to further your learning. Tutorial support is also available to assist with any additional explanation or teaching tools which may help you.

For the clinical practice e-portfolio your Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors will provide written feedback throughout and will also meet with you to discuss this feedback during a series of practice-related professional discussions.

Version Number:	**Purpose / Change:**	**Cohort affected: (academic year and level)**	**Date change approved:**
1			December 2024
2	Significant amendment	26/27	March 2025

END OF DOCUMENT