

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Critical Care
Award	Graduate Certificate
Exit Awards	Graduate Certificate
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Nursing
Programme code	GSCRCA
Type of study	Blended learning
Total UK credits	60
Total ECTS	30

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This programme is designed to facilitate your development as a critical care nurse which will enable you to become a proficient practitioner within the specialism of critical care nursing. It will provide you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge, share experiences and learn from other practitioners. This programme has been designed to incorporate 'The National Competency Framework for Registered Nurses in Adult Critical Care' (CC3N - Steps 2 and 3).

The Programme provides two 30-credit modules at Level 6.

Core Concepts in Critical Care (30 credits).

Dimensions of Critical Care (30 credits).

You are required to undertake both modules sequentially to be awarded a **Graduate Certificate in Critical Care**. These modules incorporate Step 2 and Step 3 competencies from the National Competency Framework for Registered Nurses in Adult Critical Care (CC3N).

These modules have been designed to further develop your essential critical care skills and enhance your theoretical knowledge to underpin your practice. The overall aim is to embed core knowledge, critical thinking and to develop you in your role as a competent critical care health professional. They address core elements of knowledge required to complete the National (CC3N) Steps Competency Framework.

The modules will be delivered via a blended learning approach. This approach allows you to learn in a manner that is convenient to you, with a mix of face-to-face, online synchronous (participants are engaged at the same time online), and asynchronous lectures (not in real time) and tutorials to optimise flexibility and accessibility. This approach will enable you to work around clinical commitments, family commitments and preferred styles of learning to progress on an academic pathway.

Aims

The programme aims to:

- Promote evidence-base knowledge to underpin practice.

- Develop reflective practitioners who engage with appropriate and relevant research literature.
- Demonstrate a range of skills related to caring for a critical care patient.
- Critically evaluate current practice to be a proficient practitioner.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically evaluate physiological principles to rationalise care interventions.
- Explore the impact of intensive care on the individual's psychosocial requirements and develop strategies that assist to maintain sensory balance.
- Evaluate, and reflect on leadership and management styles which impact on the care for critically ill patients and their relatives.
- Critically discuss the relevant literature to ascertain and predict the impact of quality and safety initiatives to improve care within an intensive care environment.
- Critically evaluate relevant critical care theory and research to promote evidence-based practice within a team setting.

Skills:

- Evaluate the benefits and risks of approaches taken to managing patients with multi-system failure.
- Critically discuss patient data to provide clear rationales for key interventions in patient care.
- Examine short- and long-range goals associated with the intensive care patient continuum in conjunction with the inter-professional team.
- Explore the complex care requirements in patients recovering and rehabilitating from critical illness.
- Critically evaluate care management strategies and effective decision making to influence critical care patient outcome.

Values and attitudes:

- Critically discuss your personal and professional developmental needs and identify strategies to address these.
- Demonstrate the ability to promote compassionate, collaborative care which is patient and family centred.
- Critically consider the ethical basis upon which decisions are made within the critical care setting to enable your active participation in decision making.
- Critically explore the evidence to provide an environment which addresses and promotes workforce well-being.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the Graduate Certificate award is one year, although students may take modules on an occasional basis over two years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A range of methods will be used throughout the programme, including:

Lectures

Lectures are used to communicate core material and as a foundation for further reading. A lecture can help you to feel secure in the foundational knowledge required and point you to significant areas for further study. Lectures provide a basis for discussion in seminars or tutorials. Lecture notes are provided on the virtual learning environment Moodle. However, you are expected to take your own notes too. Lectures may be on campus (in person) or online. Online lectures may be synchronous (in 'real time') or asynchronous (pre-recorded). Interaction in synchronous lectures (online or on campus) is encouraged through for example discussions and responses to questions. Lectures will usually be delivered by University staff, and there will also be a range of external experts and service users who will provide their unique perspectives on the topics covered in the lectures.

Tutorials

Tutorials provide you with the opportunity to work on problems and exercises connected with the course material. Tutorials develop problem-solving skills in an environment that encourages an interactive approach to learning.

Self-directed learning

Your studies will involve a number of hours of self-directed learning as outlined below. This time will be spent reading course material and recommended books, articles or other sources and time spent on your personal study-skills development. The Module Leaders will direct you to the relevant teaching materials available on Moodle for you to prepare for lectures, seminars, and tutorials. Reading lists are provided on module specifications and on Moodle. You will be expected to access the resources before the teaching in order to maximise your learning. During self-directed learning you should explore areas of interest, read widely, and engage in activities to support achieving your assessments. Whilst this time counts towards the total hours allocated to the programme, it will be up to you to decide exactly how you spend this time and which areas of learning you wish to pursue.

Guided independent study

During the programme you will be allocated time to undertake prescribed activities individually or in study groups. These activities may form part of the formative assessment strategy to help you to complete the summative assessment or may be set tasks which you should complete prior to attending a taught session.

Moodle

Moodle is City's Online Learning Environment. Lecturers design Moodle modules to enhance your learning experience by providing online access to module content, activities, communication tools and assessments. This increases opportunities for you to interact with module content and your peers, through on-going discussions and reflection. Your main module reading list will also be available via Moodle's electronic reading list facility.

Blended Learning

This approach combines the use of online educational materials, platforms, and synchronous online sessions with more traditional in person-based teaching and learning methods.

You are required to be actively engaged both in your online learning and the face-to-face learning, on campus this will include independent reading, taking a critical stance on your own work in critical care practice and debating issues related to critical care with peers. You will be required to independently learn through your own reading which will be guided towards both greater understanding and evaluation of critical care. There is a significant amount of self-directed study in each module and this time is for you to read literature related to the modules you are studying.

Formative assessment opportunities will help you prepare your summative assessment. These range from quizzes to assess your knowledge, practice case scenarios, posting on a discussion board your proposed assessment to gain peer feedback, discussion with your mentor in practice on your assessment.

Exposure to your patient group in practice will be an essential element to your learning and formative feedback from your assessor will enable you to develop and apply your knowledge and skills in practice.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment will draw on a range of approaches which include the completion of the 'National Competency Framework for Registered Nurses in Adult Critical Care' (CC3N Steps 2&3), a viva voce examination, and an e-poster.

The National Competency Framework (CC3N) has been designed to provide you with essential critical care skills which are required to work in a critical care environment. The National Competency Framework for Registered Nurses in Adult Critical Care (CC3N) consist of two parts known as Steps 2 & 3.

You will be required to complete both Step 2 and Step 3 competencies in the National Competency Framework for Registered Nurses in Adult Critical Care (CC3N). The competencies assess you on a range of clinical competencies within your practice, which will incorporate relevant knowledge. As part of the clinical competency pack, you will be required to complete a learning contract, the initial, ongoing assessment and development plan and the final assessment with your practice assessor.

You will be assessed by an experienced critical care practitioner, within a Level 3 critical care setting.

To assess your knowledge on the Core Concepts of Critical Care you will participate in a viva voce based on a patient scenario. To assess your knowledge on Dimensions of Critical Care you will be required to develop an e-poster with a voice over on your chosen area of interest within critical care.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback is usually provided in written format for each module. All written feedback is posted onto Moodle to enable you to access this easily.

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The full policy can be found at: <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/education/quality-manual/6-assessment>

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 40%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified, you will not progress, and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

On completion of both the:

Core concepts in Critical Care 30 credits

Dimensions of Critical Care 30 credits

Graduate Certificate in Critical Care

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	6	60	100

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	40

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

There are two core modules to completed, to be awarded a Graduate Certificate in Critical Care:

Core Concepts in Critical Care module (30 credits)

Dimensions of Critical Care module (30 credits).

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Core concepts in Critical Care	CA3001	30	Core	no	6
Dimension of Critical Care	CA3002	30	Core	no	6

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

The modules of this programme are aimed at those of you who already work within the Critical Care environment. The Programme will provide you with the expected knowledge and skills to be a safe proficient practitioner to enhance your career prospects in this field.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:

<https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career>

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no study abroad options available on this programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

The University does not arrange or provide clinical placements for Critical Care training. Prior to applying for a place on the programme you will need to obtain a clinical placement in a critical care unit, to meet the entry requirements of the programme.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

N/A

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

You must be a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registrant and meet the criteria to undertake the programme.

- You must have completed **Steps 1** of the 'National Competency Framework for Registered Nurse in Adult Critical Care' (CC3N) prior to commencing the Concepts of Critical Care module.
- You must be working currently in a critical care setting (providing Level 2 & 3 care), with 12 months experience in critical care.
- Confirmation of managerial support from your current clinical area.
- To undertake this course, you must identify, negotiate, and access relevant opportunities and experiences to demonstrate skills and competencies in Critical Care, under the supervision of an appropriately experienced/qualified assessor.

English Language Requirements:

One of the following:

- GCSE: English Language Grade 4 (C)
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7.0 with no subtest below 7.0
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language which satisfies the Board of Studies concerned, including registration with your professional regulator.

Applicants will apply through the online **registration** process and must meet the criteria to study by the module team.

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For use from: 2023-24

Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.