

**BSc (Hons) in Primary Care Nursing**                      **UCAS Code**  
**For students entering Part 3 of the degree in 2008**

Awarding Institution	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution	The University of Reading Faculty of Social Sciences
Programme length	52 weeks (4 terms)
Programme Director:	Val Thurtle
Board of Studies	Primary Care and Public Health Nursing
Accreditation:	The Nursing and Midwifery Council

**Summary of Programme Aims**

This programme is intended to develop informed and critical practitioners who are effective in their own field of specialist nursing practice. Continuing personal and professional development will be promoted to enable students to attain higher level skills and knowledge required for the provision of quality care of individuals, families and communities. As potential leaders in community nursing, students will be provided with the knowledge and skills to enable them to initiate change and respond to a community and user led community nursing service.

**Transferable skills**

Students will be registered nurses who will have a wide range of skills and learning, needs which will be individually identified and further developed to a higher level. These will include interpersonal, communication, presentation, leadership, collaboration and research skills, reflection in practice and critical analysis. Throughout the course it is expected that students will be able to transfer these skills to their practice setting. They will also have the opportunity to further extend their skills related to written and oral communication, information handling, numeracy, problem solving, team working, information technology and career management.

**Programme Content**

This is the third year of a BSc (Hons) in Primary Care Nursing (full time and part time) and includes an UKCC (2001) community specialist practitioner qualification in District Nursing,

The 52-week programme consists of the following core specialist modules. All core modules and all specialist modules are compulsory.

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>
HC3C14	Leadership in community healthcare practice	20	H
HC3C17	Research and its application to healthcare practice	20	H
HC3C26	Policy and Practice in Health and Social Care	20	H
HC3C42	Long Term conditions and Case Management	20	H
HC3C41	Health and Social Care of Older People and End of Life Care	20	H
HC3C40	Community Specialist Practice (DN)	20	H
HC3QP	Nurse Prescribing V100	10	H

Community placement equating to 50% of total programme to fulfil NMC requirements.

## **Progression Requirements**

Students are required to undertake ten weeks of consolidation at the end of the course. (UKCC 2001). In order to proceed to this consolidation, known as 'Supervised Practice', students must have passed Practice Placement at the end of term 2.

## **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

As students will come from a wide range of professional nursing experience, they will be supported in reflecting on experience and identifying individual learning needs. This will be facilitated by personal tutors and by Community Practice Teachers through the use of learning contracts and reflective journals throughout the course. It is envisaged that students undertaking this undergraduate programme will normally be placed with Practice Teachers as designated in the NMC (2006b) document concerning Standards for Mentors and Teachers. A wide range of teaching methods will be employed, including both teacher and student centred, as appropriate. The former will include guided discussion, lecture discussion and tutorials, and the latter, debate discussion groups, seminars, workshops, simulation and games. A range of assessments includes: essays, reports, literature searches, examination, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), reflective accounts and the compilation of a professional learning portfolio. Full details of assessments are given in module specifications.

## **Admission Requirements**

Normally students will be registered nurses (adult), with preferably at least two years practice experience. Both full and part time routes will be available to nurses who are on the Professional Register of the Nursing and Midwifery Council. They are also required to provide evidence of appropriate prior education and professional study (normally 120 credits at diploma level). The satisfaction of these requirements shall equate to completion of certificate and diploma level of a first Honours Degree in the Faculty of Economics and Social Science. Students will therefore be admitted to the third year at Honours level.

**Admissions Tutor:** Val Thurtle

## **Support for Students and their Learning**

Student learning is supported by IT services which has several hundred computers, and by the library which across its three sites holds over a million volumes and subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals. The library also has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning ([S@IL](#)), computer-based teaching and learning facilities. A range of appropriate professional journals is available at the Bulmershe Library. There is also a special arrangement with several local hospital libraries, which are accessible to students with specialist interests. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by personal tutors, the careers advisory service, the special needs adviser, study skills adviser, hall wardens and Students' Union.

## **Career Prospects**

Students undertaking this course will have been sponsored by local NHS Primary Care Trusts. Their career prospects are therefore excellent and the majority of students who have successfully qualified are initially employed as specialist

community nurses and many moving on to advanced practice. In order to practise as a community specialist practitioner, on successful completion of the programme, graduates must ensure their specialist practice and V100 qualifications are recorded with the NMC

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

There are no formal arrangements for exchanges but students undertaking this programme have had the opportunity to undertake a short elective placement around the Easter period. This option should be negotiated with the course team and the sponsor and will be subject to self-funding.

### **Educational aims of the programme**

This programme is intended to develop informed and critical practitioners who are effective in their own field of specialist nursing practice. Continuing personal and professional development will be promoted to enable students to attain higher level skills and knowledge required for the provision of quality care of individuals and communities. As potential leaders in community nursing, students will be provided with the knowledge and skills to enable them to initiate change and respond to a community and user led community nursing service.

## Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas

### Knowledge and Understanding

<b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b>	<b>Teaching/Learning Methods and strategies</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Legal and ethical issues that arise in community nursing practice</li><li>2. Theories underpinning leadership, change and quality improvement strategies within the National Health Service</li><li>3. Social policy and public health perspectives underpinning the process of addressing and assessing population health needs within an inequitable society</li> <li>4. Theoretical perspectives informing the processes of aging and decline and the diversity of human responses to adaptation and change</li> <li>5. Different approaches to the research process in general and to research within their own field of community nursing practice.</li> <li>6. Educational theory as applied to teaching and learning in clinical practice</li> <li>7. A knowledge of pharmacology, diagnostics, and legal and ethical issues related to the prescription , supply and administration of medicines</li> <li>8.Theoretical perspectives related to the aetiology and management of long term conditions</li></ol>	<p>The knowledge required is delineated through formal lectures, guided reading, student led seminars and group discussion. All theoretical knowledge is related to community nursing practice through the use of theory /practice linking and discussion with personal tutors in college, and community practice educators in the practicum.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Knowledge is tested through a combination of formative and summative coursework, examination, seminars and a major professional study</p>

## Skills and other attributes

<p><b>B. Intellectual skills</b> – able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Analyse and evaluate decision making in community nursing from a professional, legal and ethical point of view</li><li>2. Develop quality improvement initiatives and appropriate performance–improving strategies</li><li>3. Identify and address the health needs of individuals, families and communities</li><li>4. Demonstrate the ability to collect and critically analyse ethnographic data.</li><li>5. Critically evaluate current research and identify a research problem within a specific field of practice</li><li>6. Demonstrate the ability, through reflection, to formulate and achieve personal and professional learning outcomes</li><li>7. Achieve the appropriate competencies for community nursing and Specialist Practice (UKCC 2001) and develop advanced skills in physical assessment and case management as specified within the DH document for Community Matrons to address workforce needs.</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/Learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>It is expected that these skills will be learned and developed through guided discussion, both in the classroom and in practise through the process of reflection and contract learning.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>These outcomes will be assessed through course work and the practice portfolio, which includes a reflective journal and student centred learning contract.</p>
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<p><b>C. Practical skills – able to:</b></p> <p>Achieve the required competencies related to their community nursing specialism. These are identified by the UKCC, and included within the Specialist Module specifications under the following general headings related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clinical Nursing Practice</li> <li>2. Care and Programme Management</li> <li>3. Clinical Practice Leadership</li> <li>4. Clinical Development</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V100 Nurse prescribing</li> <li>• Physical assessment skills to enable holistic assessment of patients and initiation of appropriate packages of care.</li> <li>• Clinical skills associated with the delivery of intensive medication regimes. Skills development to enable collaborative working with McMillan teams and other specialists to promote care in the home.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Teaching/Learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>These practical skills will be learned within practice placements. Students’ identified and professional learning outcomes will be facilitated and assessed within a practice portfolio by approved community practice educators</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>These outcomes will be assessed through course work and the practice portfolio, which includes a reflective journal and student centred learning contract.</p>
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<p><b>Trans D. Transferable skills – able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further develop computer skills</li> <li>2. Use electronic mail</li> <li>3. Advance written communication skills</li> <li>4. Develop oral presentation and teaching skills</li> <li>4. Work as part of a team within university and operate effectively within multi professional groups</li> <li>6. Advance library skills</li> <li>7. Time management</li> <li>8. Further develop career management</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/Learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>All of</p> <p>All of these skills will be an integral part of the taught programme to include the teaching methods indicated above in AB&amp;C</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>It is expected that these skills will be demonstrated as part of the assessment indicated above both in the college setting and in practice</p>
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**Please note - This specification provides a concise 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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme**

**handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance processes or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**