

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship]
Awarding Body	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 to 5 years part-time
Intended Award	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice
Named Exit Awards	MSc Advancing Practice
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 credits at honours academic level or show an ability to work successfully at Masters level; • No less than two years post registration experience with no less than six months experience in the relevant clinical speciality; • Access to relevant area of clinical practice with support of their organisation on their advancing role • Current registration with the relevant regulatory body e.g. NMC, HCPC; • Evidence of achievement of English and Mathematics at a minimum of GCSE Grade 4 (or Equivalent) or Functional Skills Level 2. <p>This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route).</p>
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

². All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#)

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2025-26 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This course is designed to facilitate the development of knowledge and skills related to advanced clinical practice. Course development has been informed by and mapped to nationally accepted frameworks for advanced clinical practice (Health Education England, 2018) and the Integrated Degree Apprenticeship Standard (Skills for Health, 2018) thus ensuring that the course is relevant to contemporary practice. Evidence of successful completion of this course can support you in evidencing your learning and development when applying for career development and advancement in roles associated with an advanced level of clinical practice.

Course Aims

1. Enable students to engage in critical debate of issues pertinent to the roles and responsibilities within advanced professional practice and respond to them appropriately
2. Develop practitioners who are able to work in a professionally autonomous way demonstrating leadership within their area of practice and who are accountable for their own professional and clinical decisions
3. Enable students to critically evaluate personal and professional development needs in relation to advanced professional practice and implement appropriate responses
4. Enable students to meet the challenges of undertaking research at master's level within their field of practice
5. Develop an individual who is able to act as a role model and an educator to initiate change and management development opportunities within the clinical setting

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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On completion of the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship], students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills

1. Independently propose and evaluate alternative approaches to person-centred practice.
2. Critically appraise conceptual models, theories and vocabulary in the subjects covered within the course.
3. Deal with complexity and contradiction in knowledge proffered for practice.
4. Make sound judgments in the absence of complete data.
5. Discern between different research methods and their suitability for undertaking research in specific areas of person-centred, compassionate care.
6. Demonstrate systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of current problems within their field of practice.
7. Synthesise information and ideas and develop a creative approach to problem solving in advanced clinical practice.
8. Engage with colleagues to discuss and critically debate a variety of perspectives.
9. Critically evaluate the impact of health and social care policy on patients/clients/relevant others and health care practitioners and evaluate the culture of the specific clinical area of work in relation to the institution in which they work.
10. Critically evaluate current research and advance scholarship in their field of practice.
11. Meet the challenge of undertaking research at this level.

Subject specific skills

1. Demonstrate expertise in a variety of contexts within their field of practice.
2. Effectively engage others in the delivery of enhanced, person-centred care.
3. Take responsibility for personal and professional development in relation to advanced practice.
4. Work as an autonomous practitioner within an inter-professional team that values person-centred care.
5. Demonstrate the ability to deliver an appropriate range of interventions based on the situation of the patient.

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6. Identify the scope and limitations of their role, including critically evaluating legal and ethical implications with respect to other members of staff, local and national policies and frameworks.
7. Independently design, plan, manage and evaluate a research project pertinent to their field of professional practice.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of research findings to their profession.

Key / common skills

1. Critically analyse and appraise existing sources of information.
2. Critically evaluate elements of management and leadership in relation to the advanced practice role.
3. Demonstrate the ability to present complex arguments to a group in a competent manner.
4. Demonstrate self-reflectivity and an awareness of the need for continuing professional development.
5. Work collaboratively with others within health care and the wider environment to enhance the understanding of advanced clinical practice.
6. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings.
7. Demonstrate an ability to communicate complex issues and arguments in writing to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Apprenticeship Standards:

- Skills for Health (2018) Degree Apprenticeship Standard – Advanced Clinical Practitioner
- Health Education England (2017) Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England

Course Structure

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] comprises modules at levels 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Effective Leadership for Advanced Practice	20	M
	Holistic Assessment	20	M
	Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making	20	M
	Research Methods	20	M
	Dissertation	40	M
	Integrated End Point Assessment	20	M
	Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio	0	M
	Optional Modules:		
	Independent and/or Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing NB: This module is advised for those in ACP roles, where the student's profession or employer requires it. For students that have already completed the prescribing qualification at Level 6 or for whom prescribing is not available to their registered profession, optional modules will be available for study. Academic advice and guidance will be offered to these students to facilitate the choice of relevant and appropriate modules from the department's wider Master's provision.	40	O
	Reflexivity in Contemporary Healthcare Practice	20	O
	Coaching within Healthcare	20	O
	Dementia Care	20	O
	Applied Pharmacology for Advanced Practice	20	O
	Living well with Cancer	20	O
	Public Health and Epidemiology	20	O
	Mental Health Foundations: Emotional Needs & Resources	20	O
	Critical Care	40	O

Awards

On successful completion of the Effective Leadership for Advanced Practice, Holistic Assessment, Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making, Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing (or 40 credits of options as listed above), Research Methods, Dissertation,

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Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio and Integrated End Point Assessment modules, students will be awarded the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice. Students who complete 180 credits of the modules previously listed but do not pass the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio will be awarded an MSc Advancing Practice.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Attendance is usually required for one full study day on alternate weeks although this may vary slightly depending on the module being studied. During the apprenticeship, 20% of the students usual working hours will be given as time for study towards modules and the assessment involved in these. Students will be required to complete tripartite reviews on a termly basis. These will be carried between the student, the employer and the University of Suffolk. In general terms, this will equate to one working day a week being allocated for study purposes. In between the study day attendance at the University on alternate weeks, students will be involved in indirect study activities with the course team. This may include learning activities which supplement the core content and link to the students area of practice, for example, to explore the rationale for a service policy change. These will be delivered via the OLE Brightspace with support and guidance available from the course team. The team will offer support and guidance for self-directed study activities throughout the programme.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course will include essays, seminar presentations, one written examination, and one Objective Structured Clinical Examination during year one and a combination of essays, seminar presentations, examinations and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations during year two. Year three of the course is dedicated to the development and preparation of a dissertation and the Advanced Clinical Practice Portfolio as the final submission for the course.

End Point Assessment

All apprentices on the course undertake an End Point Assessment (EPA) to complete their Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Degree). Apprentices will be expected to undertake the EPA as part of their degree. To be eligible for EPA, apprentices will need to have completed 160 credits of the course and have their employer confirm that they have met the knowledge, skills and behaviour as set out in the apprenticeship standard and confirm their readiness for the EPA. The EPA will be delivered by the University and will include 50% presentation and 50% exam. Following successful completion of the EPA students will achieve their Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Degree).

Special Features

The MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] course meets the requirements of the Advanced Clinical Practitioner (degree) apprenticeship standard.

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Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MSc Advanced Clinical Practice [degree apprenticeship] will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and a student's employer. Students will be required to sign a commitment statement before starting their apprenticeship which will detail the student's, employer's, and University's expectations under the apprenticeship agreement.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).