



Module Specification

Adult Mental Health: Policy, Law and Ethics

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	4
Part 5: Contributes towards	5

Part 1: Information

Module title: Adult Mental Health: Policy, Law and Ethics

Module code: UZVK9G-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Health, Community and Policy Studies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module highlights the ongoing tension of decision-making in the broader socio-economic, political and medical context for mental health practice where statutory health and social care resources are limited by budgetary restrictions as a result of austerity, service users and carers experiences of poverty may impact on their mental health and social policy encourages strengths-based practice, self-help and community resources rather than statutory or institutional care. This module

will also explore the implications of mental health law for practice in the context of changing mental capacity and mental health legislation.

Features: Module entry requirements: Registered health and social care professionals e.g. current registration with Health and Care Professions Council, Social Work England, Care Council for Wales, NMC and practice role working with adults with mental health needs

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: In this module, practitioners working with adults with mental health issues will explore ethical dilemmas where autonomous decision-making is made more complex by risk. The frameworks for decision making offered by statute, case law and policy to balancing risks, duty of care and safeguarding with human rights to live free from interference and restriction, where possible. Ultimately health and social care professionals must engage with the complexity of individual lives, choices and experiences. Knowledge of mental health conditions, treatment and recovery options as well as legislative and policy frameworks should inform the expertise of practitioners.

The module will consider key decisions that are often challenging in mental health practice, such as consent to treatment, sexual relationships, care planning, self-neglect and hoarding, residence, contact and the use of restriction and restraint. It is expected that those studying will have knowledge of, and expertise in applying, current mental capacity and mental health legislation and some may have specialist roles under these legal frameworks.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Over three consecutive taught days of lectures and group and individual activities, students will be challenged to consider the complexities of practice with adults where mental capacity and mental health issues meet risk and professional duties and what ethical responses are available

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the socio-economic, political and medical context of adult mental health practice including the nature of, and challenges for, personcentred and autonomous decision-making about risk by adults

MO2 Critically engage with the current and potential future framework of adult mental health legislation in England and Wales and its interaction with human rights in the context of ethical decision making

MO3 Examine the current guidance and direction offered by case law judgements on key areas of mental health decision making and how these should impact on the decisions made by health and social care professionals

MO4 Critically analyse, in the context of an example of adult mental health practice, the application of mental health law and policy to ethical and anti-oppressive decision making to a key risk decision

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module will be assessed via a written assignment of 3000 words, linked to a critical reflection on a case study drawn from a piece of the student's practice. The assignment will be supported by an appendix which describes the practice that is being critically analysed and will be verified by the student's line manager that the case represents actual practice undertaken by the student. The assignment will focus on a piece of casework with a service user or

carer where the application of mental health law and policy have required an exploration of the student's ethics and value base in reaching one of the decisions related to risk identified within the teaching.

There will be opportunities for formative assessment within the teaching through lecturer and peer feedback in small and larger group discussions. Students will consider case studies on ethical dilemmas on applying the law in mental health practice where feedback on the use of ethical theory and legal principles will be given.

Assessment tasks:**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: 3000 word written assignment based on critical reflection on practice

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 3000 word written assignment based on critical reflection on practice

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: