



Programme Specification

Critical Care

Version: 2025-26, v1.0, Validated

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Critical Care

Highest award: PGCert Critical Care

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 January 2026

Programme code: B7GB42

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The programme sets out to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and capabilities to provide optimal care for people requiring critical care.

In addition, as the programme is aligned with the nationwide Critical Care National Network Nurse Leads Forum (CC3N) STEP competency Framework, learners will be able to evidence the skills and capabilities required for professional development and career enhancement.

Features of the programme: The Post Graduate Certificate in Critical Care is a comprehensive and innovative programme that has been designed to provide a progressive and simulating curriculum to enable learners to meet the Intensive Care (ICU) Nurse education requirements of the CQC (Care Quality Commission) and GPICS (Guideline for the Provision of Intensive Care Service), as well as the requirements of the Critical Care National Network Nurse (CC3N) STEPS framework.

Educational Aims: This programme aims to produce learners who are confident and who are competent in applying skills to improve the lives of adults affected by critical illness or injury. The programme is based on, and will deliver, the most current knowledge and evidence in the field. The flexible provision enabled by this programme will allow learners to develop, advance and maximise their theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and clinical capabilities in Adult Critical Care.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Demonstrate the knowledge and capabilities to provide evidence based care for people affected by critical illness or injury.
- PO2. Demonstrate critical understanding of the philosophy, principles and practices of care for people affected by critical illness or injury, relevant to the healthcare professional's area of practice.
- PO3. Develop their clinical expertise in their sphere of practice whilst acquiring transferable skills.

- PO4. Facilitate collaborative and effective working with other practitioners, multi-professional teams and people affected by critical illness or injury in order to provide an optimal level of care coordination with ambulance staff, handover of care.
- PO5. Integrate advanced knowledge and critical understanding of the physiological and pathological mechanisms underpinning critical illness, alongside comprehensive expertise in pharmacological and therapeutic management strategies.
- PO6. Demonstrate competence, underpinned by in depth clinical reasoning, in the assessment and application of appropriate interventions across a range of critical care conditions, for Level 2 (High Dependency) and Level 3 (Intensive Care) critically ill patients.

Assessment strategy: The broad and creative assessment strategy across the PGCert is designed to meet the programme learning outcomes, enable learners to excel at level 7 study and embed their learning into clinical practice.

Students will experience a range of assessments including both practice based assessments and theory based assessments; the assessments taken will be influenced by the diet of modules taken but may include essays, case studies, presentations, posters and reflections.

Student support: There are several methods for facilitation of student support within the Programme. Students are made aware of the support services available to them at the University

A key consideration is the preparedness of students for learning in an online environment. Learning will be managed using a blended-learning mode of delivery, incorporating a flexible schedule with asynchronous learning via pre-recorded presentations and interactive learning materials, combined with synchronous workshops and tutorials, which is ideal for accommodating learners' clinical commitments. We would ensure that all learners were equipped for this style of learning by introducing digital skills sessions early in the delivery of the programme, and by providing on-going academic and professional service to support to address any access or IT problems.

Students can access Student Support Advisors who provide guidance on a wide range of matters relating to course related issues, options and module choices, what to do if unforeseen personal or medical issues affect studies or assessments.

The UWE Student Union Advice centre provides impartial and unbiased advice independent of existing University services. Student representation will be encouraged to work collaboratively with the Programme Team to improve the learning experience and student journey.

We encourage students to disclose disability/specific learning difficulties and/or to request specialist assessments at the point of admission and during induction to the Programme. Students who make a disclosure at applicant stage are encouraged to liaise with disability services to consider options for specific reasonable adjustments. The Programme follows inclusive learning design principles to ensure that learning is optimised for every student.

The well established UWE Chaplaincy team can offer pastoral, bereavement and spirituality support for current UWE students of all faiths and none. Details of current Coordinating Chaplain and Associate Chaplains will be included in the Programme Guidance documentation.

We are committed to the health and wellbeing of our university community and this provision will be delivered in line with the UWE Transforming Futures Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2030. Through this policy we strive to support individuals to fulfil their own potential and to enable others to thrive while dealing with the normal stresses of education, employment and life. We do this by providing learners with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and understanding that maximises their health and wellbeing including, how to best support themselves, providing evidence-informed training, toolkits and campaigns to raise awareness, addressing stigma and effectively signposting to appropriate and timely support which improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of our learners.

Part B: Programme Structure**Year 1**

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 40 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

With the agreement of the Programme Leader, the following Level 6 modules can be used in lieu of their Level 7 equivalents: UZWR1B-20-3 Principles of Critical Care; UZWR1E-20-3 Critical Care in Practice.

To achieve a PGCert the maximum allowed at Level 6 is 20 credits out of the 60 credit total.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWR1F-20-M	Critical Care in Practice 2025-26	20
UZWR1C-20-M	Principles of Critical Care 2025-26	20

Year 1 Optional Modules

The student must take 20 credits from the modules in Optional Modules.

With the agreement of the Programme Leader, the following Level 6 modules can be used in lieu of their Level 7 equivalents: UZWK9B-20-3 Physical Assessment and Clinical Reasoning; UZWSAC-20-3 Principles of Neuroscience; UZTSVU-20-3 Leadership and Innovation; UZTR3X-20-3 Communication Skills in Supportive and End of Life Care; UZWRVT-20-3 Essentials of Renal Care.

To achieve a PGCert the maximum allowed at Level 6 is 20 credits out of the 60 credit total.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWK9C-20-M	Physical Assessment and Clinical Reasoning for Practice 2025-26	20
UZWSAD-20-M	Principles of Neurosciences 2025-26	20

UZR1A-20-M	Care of the Acutely Ill Adult 2025-26	20
UZTSVV-20-M	Leadership and Innovation 2025-26	20
UZRWX-20-M	Pathophysiology and Diagnostic Reasoning in Clinical Practice 2025-26	20
UZTR7R-20-M	Communication Skills in Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care 2025-26	20
UZWSW3-20-M	Mastering Emergency Care 2025-26	20
UZWRVU-20-M	Essentials of Renal Care 2025-26	20

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Successful graduates will have developed an in-depth knowledge of critical care, set within the context of current educational frameworks, policy, existing practise and real-world healthcare challenges. Graduates will have benefitted from working with both academic and practice-based leaders in the field. The applied nature of each module will have enabled analytical and critical evaluation skills to be developed, crucial for a range of careers. Development of transferrable and leadership skills will have equipped students with a skill set critical for many advanced nursing and management roles, fostering leaders of the future in this field.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

UWE Bristol Strategy 2030: Transforming Futures. Available online:

<https://uwe.worktribe.com/record.jx?recordid=15085825>

Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services v2.1 (2022) -

<https://www.ficm.ac.uk/standards/guidelines-for-the-provision-of-intensive-care-services>

The Critical Care National Network - Step 2 and 3 Competency Framework v2

(2015) - <https://www.cc3n.org.uk/step-competency-framework.html>

The Critical Care National Network - Critical Care Nursing Workforce Optimisation
Plan and Staffing Standards 2024-2027

Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care
Services Version 2. 2019,

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures