



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

### *MSc Advanced Clinical Practice*

**Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Partnerships  
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

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# COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	Msc Advanced Clinical Practice
Final Award	MSc
Exit Awards	1st year: PG Cert in Professional Practice/ 1st and 2nd Year: PG Dip in Professional Practice/ 3 year Pathway: Msc in Advanced Clinical Practice
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2808PTC
Mode of study	Part Time
Mode of delivery	Campus, Distance Learning
Normal length of course	3 years
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2023 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Science and Health
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Health and Care Professionals
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-health-and-care-professions">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-health-and-care-professions</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<p><a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/msc-advanced-clinical-practice">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/msc-advanced-clinical-practice</a></p> <p>A second-class honours degree, or equivalent, in a relevant subject or a master's degree in an appropriate subject. Exceptionally, equivalent professional experience and/or qualifications will be considered. Applicants are subject to interview.</p> <p>All applicants must have registration with a professional regulatory body such as the Nursing Midwifery Council (NMC) or Health Care Professions Councils (HCPC). Be professionally practising in an environment where there is an identified need for the individual to be an advanced practitioner. This course is for UK based staff only. Be able to demonstrate support from their employer/sponsor, line manager. Usually have a minimum of 3 years post-registration experience</p>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Independent and Supplementary prescribing.
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	Level 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

The [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) include advice on what to include in this section.

This course aims to support professionals from a range of clinical backgrounds to develop their skills and knowledge to enable them to practice autonomously at an advanced clinical level. The core structure of this programme is mapped to the Multiprofessional framework for Advanced Clinical Practice (HEE 2017) within the four pillars- of clinical practice, leadership, education and research.

The principle aims of the programme are to:

- To enable students to identify, articulate and meet their own learning needs for their individual scope of practice, in line with the capability frameworks for skills, knowledge and behaviours of an Advanced Clinical Practitioner.
- Develop skills and knowledge within the individual scope of practice to enable professionals to meet nationally agreed capabilities and practice autonomously at an advanced clinical level.
- To enable students to make sound judgements in the absence of full information and to manage varying levels of risk when there is complex, competing or ambiguous information or uncertainty.
- To ensure graduates are able to use critical thinking skills when making complex decisions in order to adapt to new ways of working in a forever changing healthcare system.
- Develop skills in the analysis and synthesis of complex problems, enabling innovative solutions to enhance peoples experience and improve outcomes.
- Support the development of reflective practice in order to influence patient management, peer review and service development.
- Critically appraise evidence, research, audits and peer review at an advanced level, whilst embedding the Advanced Clinical Practice role.
- Develop the necessary leadership skills to support effective multidisciplinary working, to challenge and change practice, deliver innovation and workforce transformation to support the delivery of excellent patient centred care.
- To ensure that through this student-centred programme the individualised needs of the students are met and they have progressed within their role towards advanced level of practice.
- To ensure the graduates are prepared to undertake the role of an Advanced Clinical Practitioner within their individual scope of practice, having fully embraced work-based learning and development, alongside the academic course at Masters level (level 7).

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document. The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

Learning outcome	Assessment
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LO number		Learning and Teaching methods	methods
A1	<p><i>The knowledge and understanding that students will demonstrate on completion of the course</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The evidence base(s) underpinning professional accountability and the ethical, legal and professional frameworks for advanced clinical practice.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local and National policies and procedures within the individual scope of practice and the importance of working within these boundaries.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology to enable the gathering, synthesising and assessment of information relevant to the individual scope of practice.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The research evidence that underpins clinical reasoning and complex decision making.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theories, models and strategies for evidence based practice.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
A6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality improvement methodology</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
A7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of major classes of drugs with particular focus on individual scope of practice.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation

Add additional rows as required.

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	<p><i>The cognitive skills that students will demonstrate on completion of the course:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Synthesise practice and theory to underpin higher levels of discretion and judgement in decision making within advanced clinical practice, service delivery and leadership.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability to make sound judgements in the absence of full information and to manage varying levels of risk when there is complex, competing or ambiguous information or uncertainty.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a high level of autonomy within the individual scope of practice and critically apply advanced clinical expertise in appropriate facilitatory ways to enhance quality.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in research activity, develop and apply evidence based strategies- evaluate, appraise and synthesise the outcomes in order to manage risk, identify gaps and enhance quality, safety and productivity of person centred care.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
B5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically appraise and synthesise the outcomes of research, evaluations and audits and apply the evidence to support service improvement.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
B6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in service improvement projects, the idea for which is derived through critical analysis of evidence based practice- whilst undertaking consultation with the wider multidisciplinary team, patients and stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation

Add additional rows as required.

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:**

	Learning outcome		Assessment
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LO number		Learning and Teaching methods	methods
C1	<p><i>The practical skills that students will demonstrate on completion of the course:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically appraise the role of advanced clinical practice in relation to the four pillars, individual scope of practice and the wider community.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice with clinical expertise with a high level of autonomy, taking accountability for decisions and omissions made in line with the professional individual professional code.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
C3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis and synthesis of complex problems, enabling innovative solutions to enhance peoples experience and improve outcomes.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice)	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a personal learning plan that reflects the breadth of ongoing professional development across the four pillars of advanced clinical practice.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
C5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue professional development, critical reflection, and engage and advocate for and contribute to a culture of organisational learning to inspire future and existing staff.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
C6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically appraise evidence and identify gaps for further research to strengthen evidence based practice within the individual role.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation

Add additional rows as required.

#### D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	<p><i>The transferable skills that students will demonstrate on completion of the course:</i></p>	Lectures Seminars	Written assignments

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically reflect on working at a more advanced level of clinical practice, displaying an advanced level of autonomy whilst demonstrating safe and effective person centred care.</li> </ul>	Self directed study Clinical Practice	Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
D2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use leadership skills to influence others and promote the sharing of knowledge derived from diverse sources of evidence.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
D3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically discuss and debate the professional, legal and ethical demands of working at an advanced level- considering and applying this to the four pillars of advanced practice.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
D4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively engage in peer review formulating and implementing to act on and share with the wiser multidisciplinary team.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation
D5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role model the values of the organisation/place of work, whilst influencing others to demonstrate a person centred approach to service delivery and development.</li> </ul>	Lectures Seminars Self directed study Clinical Practice	Written assignments Case study OSCE Portfolio Oral presentation

Add additional rows as required.

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

## Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

**In addition to these University support services this course also provides...**

*Please add additional distinctive items where relevant or delete the sentence above.*

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find



further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

*Insert additional reference points or delete as required*

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for **enter the relevant statement for this course**
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (2020).
- Health Education England (2017) Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice.
- Health Education England (2020; 2021) Advanced Practice Workplace Supervision and AP
- Workplace Supervision: Minimum standards for supervision.
- Health Education England (2020) Standards of education and training for Advanced Practice courses.
- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2016).
- HCPC Standards of Education and Training Guidance (2021).
- NMC Professional Standards of Practice and Behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates (2018).
- Knowledge and Skills Framework (NHS 2010).
- Clinical Leadership Competency Framework (NHS 2011).
- A Health and Care Digital Capabilities Framework (NHS 2018).
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society [RPS] A Competency Framework for all Prescribers (RPS 2021).

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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