

Ethical and Professional Issues in Healthcare

Level 7 – 30 credits

Who is it for?

This unit is aimed at the health or social care professional with either a grounding or keen interest in philosophical thought who would like to make use of this interest to analyse ethical and professional issues arising during the course of their work. If you enjoy contributing to intellectual discussion and are eager to develop a self-critical view that transforms your practice, this unit provides the opportunity.

This course unit may be taken as a stand-alone course unit or subject to approval, as part of a new postgraduate Masters degree programme to commence September 2015 (subject to any pre or co-requisite units). For further information and entry requirements see: <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/modules/>

Course Unit Aims:

This unit aims to enable the suitably qualified health or social care professional to develop, extend and apply their knowledge to ethical and professional issues and dilemmas facing the practitioner in the workplace. The application of a critical appreciation of ethical theory and a thorough grasp of professional standards will enhance the delivery of quality care and at the same time uphold the interests of healthcare consumers.

What will I learn?

The course combines your existing high level academic and intellectual skills with your own experience of professional dilemmas and challenges to analyse the ethical and professional considerations arising from practice situations. You will learn about the role of ethics and national policy and regulatory frameworks and their implications for current health care practice, and discuss and critically appraise the role of regulatory bodies and the Department of Health in providing advice and guidance to health/social care professionals.

How is the course assessed?

Students will choose either a specific ethical concern/problem arising in their area of practice, or address the scenario offered as an 3500 word assessment option. They must examine why the issue is an ethical concern of relevance and critically discuss the relationship between the issue and appropriate ethical and professional perspectives including appropriate consideration of risks and ethical concerns. Students must present and justify appropriate courses of action by recourse to a critical analysis of ethical and professional literature.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Core theme presentations with opportunities to discuss issues arising and apply these to practice settings.
- Group discussions around ethical, legal and professional issues in contemporary health care.
- Support for undertaking course work and meeting the criteria for success: formative and summative assessment processes; marking criteria, feedback,

avoiding plagiarism and process of online submission; essay planning and development; opportunity to present essay plan to the group and receive group feedback

- Ongoing study support discussions
- Provision for individual tutorial time

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Critically evaluate ethical theory and professional considerations in health care: how to protect and uphold privacy, confidentiality and autonomy in the best interests of patients and clients.
2. Critically analyse key ethical and professional concepts and evaluate their application within the practice setting.
3. Show originality of thought in critically appraising dilemmas, identifying priorities and develop appropriate responses based upon sound ethical and professional principles.
4. Demonstrate advanced scholarship in approaching authoritative sources of literature to augment experiential learning in ethical and professional issues.

Intellectual Skills

1. Demonstrate rigorous conceptualisation and appraisal of ideas, issues and concepts
2. Critically evaluate the impact of the multi-disciplinary team approach in addressing ethical and professional dilemmas and problems in clinical practice.
3. Demonstrate innovative thought in exploring the relationship between theory and practice across issues relevant to health care professionals, developing adaptive responses to challenges in one's own area of practice.

Practical Skills

1. Critically evaluate and apply ethical principles and professional standards to issues arising in clinical practice.
2. Demonstrate effective and creative analysis of critical incidents; analyse risks and specify appropriate courses of action in the delivery of healthcare.

Transferable Skills

1. Demonstrate enhanced development of: interpersonal skills; self awareness; effective communication and active listening; questioning; challenging ideas; working in groups; discussion; critical reading and writing.

Attendance

Part-time, one day a week for seven weeks. Study dates are available online at <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/units/studydatesbyunit.pdf>

Dates of next intake

September 2014

NB. Course unit availability will be subject to minimum numbers.

Funding

Funding for the programme or individual course units may be available through the CPD Service Level Agreement (SLA) for staff working in the NHS in Greater Manchester (and in the case of some course units the wider North West). To access SLA funding each course unit must be approved by an authorised SLA signatory on an individual basis. For more information applicants should contact the Education and Training lead within their organisation, Practice educator, or equivalent.

If not eligible for CPD SLA funding candidates may also apply with employer support or self-funding. The home fee for 2014-2015 will be £1005 for Level 7.

How do I apply?

Applications must be received by the University by 5th August 2014 for the September 2014 intake.

If you are being funded by Service Level Agreement, please contact your Trust and then apply online at www.cpd-applynw.nhs.uk

- **Pre-requisites**

- Must be registered with the NMC – if NMC registration is not appropriate, applicants must have achieved GCSE English at Grade C or above or equivalent.
- In addition to a recognised health professional qualification*, all applicants require one of the following:
 - A relevant honours first degree (2:2 or above, or equivalent) from an approved higher education institution
 - Evidence of previous advanced study, research or professional experience which the University accepts as qualifying the applicant for entry

*Health Professional in the context of this programme refers to registered Nurses, Midwives or Allied Healthcare Professionals (AHPs) in direct clinical contact with patients and registered as such with the UK NMC, HPC or their equivalent in other countries.

- **HEI Additional Information/Personal statement**

- Should include details of your current post and your role and previous study at level 5 and 6
- Outline the reasons why you wish to undertake this course unit.

If you are not being funded by SLA, please see application information at <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/coursedetails/> Above pre-requisites also apply. For other information, please telephone the Admissions Office on 0161 306 7604 or email conted.nursing@manchester.ac.uk