

Course Unit Title: Critical Appraisal & Evidence Synthesis (online) Level M – 15 credits (FHEQ Level 7)

Who is it for?

This multi-professional course unit is for health and social care professionals and researchers involved in health and social care research. The course unit may be taken as part of a number of postgraduate programmes or as a stand-alone course unit (subject to any pre or co-requisite units).

Pre-requisite course units.

Students undertaking this course unit should have either completed or be studying the 'Research Design' course unit or equivalent – see:

www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/

Course Unit Aims:

The unit aims to enable students to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding and skills in critical appraisal.
- Develop an in-depth understanding of different systematic approaches to evidence synthesis.

What will I learn?

This course unit will focus on critically evaluating the theory, aims and practicalities of a range of approaches to evidence synthesis including the process of searching, critically appraising, interpreting and synthesising evidence using a rigorous and systematic approach. Students will acquire practical skills in applying methods of evidence synthesis as a means of informing health and social care policy, practice and research

How is the course assessed?

<p><u>Summative</u></p> <p>Students will select two reviews relevant to their own area of practice and critically evaluate the quality of each review using a standard assessment tool. One should be a review using established systematic methods and the other a traditional selective review.</p>	3500 words
<p><u>Formative.</u></p> <p>Formative assessment and feedback to students is a key feature of the on-line learning materials for this unit. Students will be required to engage in a range of interactive exercises to enhance their learning and test their developing knowledge and skills</p>	

Teaching and Learning methods:

Teaching and learning for this unit takes place over one semester. Learning methods utilised involve e-learning via Blackboard. Methods include accessing course material online, interactive demonstrations and activities, and taking part in online discussions with students and tutors. Directed study will comprise additional exercises and specified reading related to each on line session.

Learning Outcomes

Successful students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Critically evaluate the underpinning theory and rationales of different approaches to evidence synthesis.
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and skills in identifying and retrieving appropriate evidence to address a specific research question.
- Critically assess the quality of evidence using appropriate quality assessment tools
- Critically interpret and synthesise quantitative and qualitative evidence in order to inform current practice and future research

Intellectual Skills

- Critically appraise research in order to inform current practice and future research.
- Critically analyse and synthesise evidence from research using different study designs.
- Critically evaluate methods of identifying and retrieving the appropriate evidence.
- Debate critically the nature of evidence and the goal of evidence- based practice.

Practical Skills

- Design a review protocol to address a specific research question or an aspect of evidence based practice
- Critically review the quality of a range of evidence using appropriate quality assessment tools
- Conduct a systematic synthesis of evidence in the form of a mini-review conducted as part of an online group exercise.

Transferable Skills

- Critically reflect on their own academic performance and utilise a range of strategies to improve these and overcome any particular difficulties.
- Further develop and enhance skills in effective communication to a range of audiences in a variety of settings.
- Demonstrate skills in working collegiately and effectively with others as a member of a team
- Effectively utilise information technology / health informatics
- Utilise skills in systematic and creative approaches to problem-solving and decision-making in relation to complex issues

Dates of next intake: September 2013

This is an online course so there are no requirements to attend the University.

See: <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/>

NB. Course unit availability will be subject to minimum numbers

Closing date for applications – 12th July 2013

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. For current fee information please see our website at www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/cpd/

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**

- Students undertaking this course unit should have either completed or be studying the 'Research Design' course unit or equivalent
 - In addition to a recognised health professional qualification*, all applicants require one of the following (**you will be contacted to provide evidence**)
 - 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.
- 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.

- **Supporting information and personal statement**

- Supporting information should include details of your current post and your role and previous study
- Personal Statement - In support of your application to study the module requested; please outline the reasons why you wish to undertake this course unit.

- **Two written references (you will be contacted separately to provide these)**

If you are not being funded by SLA, please see

www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/cpd/coursedetails (above pre-requisites also apply – evidence of studies and references can be uploaded to online application)

For other information, please telephone: 0161 306 0270 or email graduate.nursing@manchester.ac.uk