



Course Specification

Part A

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing top-up

Academic Year: 2023/2024

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by WCUC, Coventry University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document)
BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing top-up

1. Introduction

The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing is a one-year full-time course validated by Coventry University. This course is a progression award for those who have completed the FdSc Veterinary Nursing or a related course with RCVS recognised veterinary nursing competences (at Level 5). It offers you the opportunity to build upon your existing knowledge and skills and is ideal for those wishing to pursue a senior management role or move into teaching and/or research. You study a total of six modules over the normal one-year duration of the full-time course. These modules are studied at Level 6. During the year of the programme, you will be required to complete a dissertation linked to veterinary nursing.

Graduates gain employment in veterinary hospitals, practices or referral centres. In addition, you are able to pursue a career in the allied veterinary industries such as research and academia, pharmaceutical industries and animal welfare organisations. You can also progress to post-graduate qualifications include MBA, MSc and teaching courses such as PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) and CertEd (Certificate in Education), as well as the RCVS post-registration qualifications e.g. Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Warwickshire College Group, including Warwick College and University Centre (WCUC), has a long standing reputation for delivering land-based qualifications. Both delivery sites for veterinary nursing qualifications are well equipped with both clinical environments and practical animal collections.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	FHEQ Level
BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing	FT, 1 year PT, 2 years	Level 6 Level 6
3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University	
4 Collaboration	Delivered by Warwickshire College, validated by Coventry University	
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Warwickshire College and University Centre Moreton Morrell and Pershore Campuses	
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of latest review: 04/2023 Date for next review: Academic year 2028/2029	
7 Course Accredited by	Not applicable	
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	June 2023	
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The course is aligned to the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Veterinary Nursing (October 2019) which reflects the professional competence requirements for registration as a veterinary nurse. The main criteria include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The expectation of working as a professional veterinary nurse; 	

and/or other external factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The application of relevant principles and concepts; o Relevant subject knowledge understanding and associated skills; o Generic academic skills and their application to clinical practice. <p>◆ Full details of these criteria are given in the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Veterinary Nursing (October 2019).</p>
10 Date of Course Specification	January 2023 - for FAP
11 Course Director	Sarah Pointer

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

This BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing top-up aims to:

- A. equip students with skills and knowledge to prepare them for a career in veterinary nursing or the wider employment opportunities of animal health management;
 - B. develop students' critical understanding of veterinary nursing, its regulatory and professional framework and the role of veterinary nurses within the profession;
 - C. develop each student's evaluative reasoning, their understanding and judgement, their ability to see relationships within what they have learned and to analyse the field of study in a broader perspective;
 - D. develop students as T-Shaped Learners in order to prepare them for personal, social and economic success;
 - E. develop those skills of professional scholarship and self-reflection required for career management, lifelong learning and innovation;
 - F. develop the ability to select and apply acquired skills to veterinary healthcare problems likely to be encountered when working with a range of animal species.
- Reference points:
 - o WCG T-Shaped Learner Framework
 - o Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 6 on the FHEQ: bachelor's degree with honours from the QAA's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Descriptors (FHEQ)
 - o [QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Veterinary Nursing](#)

13 Course Learning Outcomes

The course learning outcomes should highlight what the graduates will be able to do after the completion of the course and are appropriately aligned with the relevant FHEQ Qualification Descriptor and Subject Benchmark statements.

13.1 Knowledge and Understanding of the Subject

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

- KU1: Apply knowledge and understanding of the subjects underpinning nursing and the clinical and technical skills required of a veterinary nurse to provide creative solutions in care situations;
- KU2: Critically analyse and interpret data and appraise its value for veterinary healthcare delivery and management through evidence based nursing practice;
- KU3: Capitalise on the potential for health improvement through the development of health education/promotion strategies.
- KU4: Gain a knowledge of the relevant law and legal frameworks with respect to Veterinary Nursing

13.2 Cognitive Skills

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

- CS1: Select and apply knowledge and skills to complex and unexpected situations;

- CS2: Demonstrate a critical understanding of research-based knowledge and evidence-based practice and its application to veterinary nursing practice;
- CS3: Articulate and justify decision-making and problem-solving processes associated with veterinary nursing practice.
- CS4: Critically evaluate personal responsibility and decision making across a range of situations.

13.3 Practical and/or Professional Subject Skills

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

- PS1: Manage themselves, their own professional practice and that of others in accordance with the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses, and critically evaluate their own abilities and limitations;
- PS2: Implement strategies to promote and evaluate collaborative working with patients, clients and colleagues in both therapeutic and preventative veterinary healthcare;
- PS3: Recognise the complexity of the of ethical principles, cultural diversity and legislation framework and its impact on decision-making and professional practice accordingly;
- PS4: Use reflection to appraise, evaluate and enhance professional practice in self and colleagues, and to identify opportunities to introduce novel approaches to patient care and management of the clinical environment;
- PS5: Collaborate and communicate proactively and confidently using a range of media, to provide coherent and logical arguments in the support of decision-making.
- PS6: select and implement a range of quality assurance and risk management strategies to create and maintain a safe clinical environment.

13.4 T-Shaped Employability Skills (transferable)

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

- TS1: Communicate effectively to a range of audiences using the appropriate format and, following evaluation, identify methods for improvement;
- TS2: Evaluate and, through reflection, improve own confidence to take initiative;
- TS3: Evaluate own ability to reflect meaningfully and honestly on personal performance and review strategies for using feedback from self and others to improve;
- TS4: Scope the range of opportunities for enterprise within own industry sector Learn independently and display the skills of professional scholarship required for personal development, career management and lifelong learning.

The aims and outcomes of this award are clearly in alignment with the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (October 2014) at level 6, as referenced in the QAA's revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (March 2018).

This programme is designed for the provision of key understanding, knowledge and skills as identified in the QAA's Subject Benchmark Statement for Veterinary Nursing (2019).

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

WCUC higher education programmes are based on a credit-accumulation system where 1 credit represents 10 hours of student study time. Modules are normally 20 credits or multiples thereof. Modules are also at different levels (4, 5 and 6) according to the intellectual challenge. Courses leading to specific awards include core modules. To achieve a named award students must pass all core modules.

A single level five module may be studied as a co-requisite to the dissertation to capture an introduction to research design. If an appropriate module has been studied previously at Level five then the student will not need to study this as part of the top-up.

The top-up year incorporates a dissertation, providing students with the opportunity to research a relevant topic. They develop a more advanced understanding of both animal behaviour and pharmacology, together with more specialist emergency and critical care nursing skills. The final year also incorporates a practice management module to introduce concepts of business management associated with the veterinary industry.

Students will be able to enrol to study this course via full time or part time modes of delivery. The previous paragraphs describe the pattern typical for a full time student studying a total of 120 credits in one year. Part time students will study over two years as opposed to one year (a total of 60 credits in year one, and 60 credits in year two). The pattern of module delivery is indicated below, in table 14.1 (full time) and 14.2 (part time). The course maps show typical delivery patterns.

Table 14.1 - Course map for full time study

Level 5			
Module code	Module Title	Pre-req Co-req	Delivery
562AVN	Research Design and Analysis	None	Year 1

Level 6			
Module code	Module Title	Pre-req Co-req	Delivery
657AVN	Dissertation	None	Year 1
670AVN	Applied Pharmacy and Medicines	None	Year 1
671AVN	Companion Animal Behaviour and Therapy	None	Year 1
672AVN	Emergency Critical and Intensive Nursing Care	None	Year 1
673AVN	Practice Management	None	Year 1

Table 14.2 - Course map for part time study

Part time students study over eight years as opposed to four years (a total of 40 credits in years one to six, and 60 credits in years seven and eight). Students must achieve at least 60 credits to progress to the second year of study.

Year 1			
Module code	Module Title	Pre-req Co-req	Delivery
562AVN	Research Design and Analysis	None	Year 1
670AVN	Applied Pharmacy and Medicines	None	Year 1
673AVN	Practice Management	None	Year 1

Year 2			
Module code	Module Title	Pre-req Co-req	Delivery
671AVN	Companion Animal Behaviour and Therapy	None	Year 2

672AVN	Emergency Critical and Intensive Nursing Care	None	Year 2
657AVN	Dissertation	None	Year 2

This programme provides the opportunity for students to further their studies at BSc (Hons) level. Students are developed in the underpinning skills required at degree level, plus the principles and theories linked to veterinary nursing by complying with the guidance work requirements as laid down by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing curriculum is designed around the need to provide the veterinary industry with graduates that possess a wide range of competences in animal health and welfare. The emphasis is on application of theory to practise, and the acquisition of the practical and team-working skills required in a professional context within the veterinary industry.

Progression

For a part-time student, based on 80 credits in the first academic year, a maximum of 20 credits can be carried into the following academic year.

Students will be encouraged to progress to further study at postgraduate level or in a professional discipline which might include Certificates in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Applicants with international qualifications will be considered on the merits and equivalence of their offered qualifications supported by evidence of competency in written and spoken English (e.g. IELTS score 6.0 or equivalent). Typically students' names are already held on the Register of Veterinary Nurses by the RCVS.

Students who successfully complete the BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing top-up would be qualified to secure employment within a wide range of employers within the veterinary industry. Typical careers might include nursing in general small animal and mixed first-opinion veterinary practice, specialist referral hospitals, university hospitals, animal collections (zoos, wildlife parks, nature reserves, farm parks), animal nutrition, animal technician and animal welfare officers for Local Authorities/DEFRA/HMRC, sales, teaching as well as a wide range of alternative positions.

Cascade of Awards:

BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing (honours degree)

To be awarded an honours degree, students must successfully achieve a total of 120 credits at level 6⁺

BSc Animal Health Studies (non-honours degree)

Students will have obtained a minimum of 100 credits at level 6.

Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or optional), the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below. The

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional
5	562AVN	Research Design and Analysis	20	Bridging
6	657AVN	Dissertation	40	Mandatory
6	670AVN	Applied Pharmacy and Medicines	20	Mandatory
6	671AVN	Companion Animal Behaviour and Therapy	20	Mandatory
6	672AVN	Emergency Critical and Intensive Nursing Care	20	Mandatory
6	673AVN	Practice Management	20	Mandatory

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the UCAS website, then clicking on 'Entry profile'.

Applicants need to meet the following criteria for entry:

- Applicants name is held on the Register of Veterinary Nurses held by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS);
- A recognised Level 5 (240 credits) veterinary nursing qualification with an overall merit performance. This is typically:
 - o Foundation degree;
 - o Higher National Diploma.

All suitable applicants will be invited to a one to one interview, which may be in person or online.

If students have not studied an appropriate Research Design and Analysis module at level 5, then they will be required to study 562AVN as a bridging module to the course. This module carries no credits. This includes students progressing from the WCUC/ Coventry University Foundation Degree.

International students also require an IELTS of 6.5 overall, with no less than 6.0 in any component (or equivalent).

It is advised that students have an up-to-date Tetanus vaccination before the course commences.

16 Academic Regulations

This Course conforms to the [WCG higher education \(HE\) academic regulations for programmes validated by Coventry University](#).

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

This award is designed with reference to the Office for Students quality and standards conditions as part of general ongoing conditions of registration. In particular, this document references Condition B5 - Sector-recognised standards.

WCUC will ensure any standards set appropriately reflect any applicable sector-recognised standards; and awards are only granted to students whose knowledge and skills appropriately reflect any applicable sector-recognised standards.

This award also references the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) Subject Benchmark Statements (which describe the content expected in courses in particular subjects).

Internal indicators of annual quality and standards include annual CCQEM reports that are considered carefully by the course team and any actions, including those of the External Examiner, are responded to.

In April 2021, Warwickshire College was granted Bachelor Degree-Awarding Powers (BDAP) via an Order from the Office for Students following an in-depth scrutiny of quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (as the designated quality body) during 2020.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have electronic access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including:

- HE Student Handbook
- HE Course Handbook
- Module Guides
- Inclusion and Support information
- Fitness to Practice Guidelines (both WCUC and RCVS)
- Fitness to Study Guidelines

Section 5 Course Assessment Strategy Mapping by Module (BSc Top Up)

Module	Module Title	Brief assessment details	Assessment type	Credits/ Weight	Course Learning Outcomes																Submission			
					K U 1	K U 2	K U 3	K U 4	C S 1	C S 2	C S 3	C S 4	P S 1	P S 2	P S 3	P S 4	P S 5	P S 6	T S 1	T S 2		T S 3	T S 4	
562AVN	Research Design and Analysis (bridging module)	Assessment 1 - Research Proposal	Written	10 50%		✓					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Year 1, term 1
		Assessment 2 - Research Report	Written	10 50%	✓	✓				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		Year 1, term 3
657AVN	Dissertation	Assessment 1 - Protocol (Research primer)	Written	15%	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	Year 1, term 1	
		Assessment 2 - Progress File	Portfolio	Pass/ Fail	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	✓	Year 1, term 3
		Assessment 3 - Seminar Presentation	Live	10%						✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		Year 1, term 2
		Assessment 4 - Dissertation	Written	60%	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Year 1, term 3
		Assessment 5 - Viva voce	Live	15%		✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Year 1, term 3
Module	Module Title	Brief assessment details	Assessment	Credits/ Weight	Course Learning Outcomes																Submission			

			type	Weight	K U 1	K U 2	K U 3	K U 4	C S 1	C S 2	C S 3	C S 4	P S 1	P S 2	P S 3	P S 4	P S 5	P S 6	T S 1	T S 2	T S 3	T S 4	Semester 1
670AVN	Applied Pharmacy and Medicines	Assessment 1 - Written assignment	Written	10 50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			Year 1, term 1
		Assessment 2 - Pre-recorded presentation	Artefact	10 50%	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓			
671AVN	Companion Animal Behaviour and Therapy	Assessment 1 - Written report	Written	10 50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	Year 1, term 2
		Assessment 2 - Case study	Written	10 50%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
672AVN	Emergency Critical and Intensive Nursing Care	Seminar Contribution (4 of 5 seminars)	Live	20 100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	Year 1, all year
673AVN	Practice Management	Assessment 1 - Management Consultancy Project	Written	15 75%				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	Year 1, term 2
		Assessment 2 - Seminar Presentation	Live	5 25%	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓

*

These are: Written; Live; Artefact; TCA (Time Constrained Assessment); Composite; Portfolio

***Indicative as the running order is subject to change