

Clarification of Field Specific Competences, Essential Skills Clusters, Core Attributes Record of Desirable Skills Achievement, EU Directive 2005/36/EC and Acuity Skills

This section of the 'Assessment of Practice – Guidance for Pre-registration Nursing Nov 2014', has been replicated in this short document to aid students and mentors in their understanding of the university and NMC practice requirements.

Field Specific Competences

All Field Specific Competences (FSCs) must be achieved by the end of each practice experience. Failure to do so will result in a referral. They may be achieved in practice or in principle through discussion with your practice based supervisor/mentor.

Essential Skills Clusters

Essential skills clusters (ESCs) must be achieved at least once before each progression point. Failure to do so will result in a referral. ESCs may be achieved in practice or in principle through discussion with your practice based supervisor/mentor.

Once completed, these skills must be maintained in subsequent placements. If they are not maintained the practice based supervisor/mentor is entitled to refer the student.

Core Attributes

Core attributes are the attributes that need to be developed during each practice experience. They must then be continuously demonstrated throughout the remainder of the programme. Failure in demonstrating and maintaining core attributes will result in failure of the placement. If you fail to achieve the core attributes you will not be graded for that practice experience and will receive a referral (1st attempt) and fail (2nd attempt).

Record of Desirable Skills Achievement

In addition to the achievement of required skills, students can engage with any skill providing that they:

- Have been appropriately prepared and supervised by their mentor or suitably prepared designee
- Are undertaking a skill that is not a function limited for students by legislation, university guidance or the placement provider

You must ensure that you are working within local policy and guidance at all times, this includes checking whether skills that you have learnt are transferable between organisations. For some skills additional training is required and therefore your mentor must ensure that you have undertaken this and that they are also authorised and competent to supervise this skill.

Examples are:

- Catheterisation

- Passing a naso-gastric tube
- Venepuncture (Mental Health students only)
- Theatre induction
- Blood glucose monitoring

Desirable skills do **not include** any involvement with the drawing up, delivery and administration of intravenous medications, or patient group directives.

EU Directive 2005/36/EC for Non Adult Nurses

It is not compulsory for Child and Mental Health students to achieve the EU directive. However, Mental Health and Child students may wish to achieve some parts of the directive as appropriate to their field, in order to enhance their professional and employability profiles.

Section b)

Additional requirements for students studying under the Field of Adult Nursing (including dual field students seeking registration as adult nurses)

EU Directive 2005/36/EC

As a student studying to become a registered nurse in the field of Adult Nursing you must achieve EU directive 2005/36/EC that relates to the following areas:

- General and specialist medicine
- General and specialist surgery
- Child care and paediatrics
- Maternity care
- Mental health
- Care of the older person
- Home nursing

The faculty also considered that care of people with a Learning Disability is equally important and has added the requirement that you experience this area of care during the programme

Achievement of the EU directive should enable you to gain insights from differing fields of practice and specialities so that you can demonstrate holistic care. You must achieve these in both theory and practice settings. Therefore you must gain experience in all of these, within a practice setting.

The requirements are outcome based. All of the EU directive **MUST** be completed by the end of your programme: some areas will be met ordinarily as part of your planned placement journey; others will need to be sought out with the support of your practice based supervisors/mentors (eg people with a learning disability, people with mental health needs). They must all be signed as undertaken and achieved by your practice based supervisors/mentors in order for you to achieve them. If they are not, you will not be able to include that experience in your submission.

Identifying and planning how you will meet this directive will be undertaken in

conjunction with your academic tutor but please ensure that you discuss each of these with your mentor in practice to determine whether the opportunity will arise in that practice experience. For more information and guidance on meeting this EU directive, please visit the ALPS website www.southampton.ac.uk/alps

Acuity Skills

In order to prepare you for the workforce of the future, adult field nurses are also required to demonstrate the specific skills required to safely care for patients who are acutely ill and who may require higher levels of care. For adult field students (or dual field students seeking registration as adult nurses) it is a course requirement that you achieve these competencies by the end of your programme.

These competencies are based upon the Department of Health (2009) “Competencies for Recognising and Responding to Acutely Ill Patients in Hospital”, and have been developed in partnership with the acute NHS trusts who are partners with the University in delivering your programme. They are based upon an ABCDE approach, and also include skills relating to patient observation and to team communication.

These competencies may be achieved in any practice experience, and it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that all are achieved before the end of your programme. This will mean working with mentors to set specific learning objectives so as to make the most of learning opportunities that are available to you.