

Access to HE (Nursing)

Diploma Guide

Diploma Background and Aims

The Health Science Profession curriculum has been a core and stable area for many years. It has been the most in demand Diploma and provides several progression pathways into HE. As these pathways and career options have widened, there has been an increasing demand for the provision of discrete, vocationally specific, and bespoke Diplomas.

The aims of the Access to HE Diploma (Midwifery) are:

- to introduce students to the fundamental knowledge base on which successful careers in midwifery are built
- to provide students with study skills and support to explore options in higher education within the field of midwifery and careers in the health sector.

Extensive research has been undertaken into the typical entry requirements of nursing degrees and other higher education opportunities which accept Access to HE diplomas. The credit values available in the pathways offered within this diploma have been designed to meet those requirements as at the date of validation. Periodic review of these entry requirements will be undertaken and amendments made where deemed necessary.

The Access to HE diploma does not guarantee entry to any higher education qualification.

Intended Progression Routes

This diploma has been designed to offer progression into the following areas of higher level study:

- Midwifery degree/apprenticeship
- Nursing
- Other careers allied to health (e.g. podiatry)
- General health qualifications (e.g. Health and Social Care, Health Science).

Students could also apply to courses such as biology or child development depending upon the entry requirements of the specific university, however, if this is the student's intention from the outset there are other diplomas which would better suit the student's planned progression.

Students should always check the entry requirements of the higher education course they intend to apply to before enrolling on an Access to HE diploma.

Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for this diploma, however, based on the level of study it is suggested that students have the following qualifications upon entry:

English – Level 2 Functional Skills, Grade C/4 GCSE
Mathematics – Level 2 Functional Skills, Grade C/4 GCSE
Science/Biology – Grade C/4 GCSE.

Many HEI's have the above Level 2 requirements in addition to Level 3 qualification requirements.

Staffing Requirements

It is a requirement that staff delivering, assessing and internally quality assuring this diploma have the appropriate professional competence and subject expertise.

- Staff should be qualified at level 4 or above in the named subject or the unit they are delivering or assessing, or in a subject allied to or similar to that subject
- Staff should already have or be working towards a teaching qualification at level 4 or above
- Staff should have experience of delivering and assessing Access to HE, new staff should be fully trained in Access to HE regulations, policies and procedures prior to delivering or assessing
- Staff who are internally quality assuring assessments or assignment briefs should have experience of delivering and assessing Access to HE before internally quality assuring other staff.

Target Students

The AVA has developed the Access to HE Diploma (Midwifery) specifically for students who wish to develop a fundamental understanding of the knowledge base required of a higher education nursing student.

This Diploma is aimed at a range of target groups, including people who are returning to education after being employed in similar sectors; people seeking qualifications to enable them to change their career path and students seeking a foundation in several subjects related to Nursing before moving on to higher level study in the UK.

Access to HE is open to younger students however, it is designed with mature students in mind, therefore the inclusion of study skills and preparing to apply to higher education is included in the ungraded units of this diploma to support those returning to education after a break.

Access to HE diplomas are a vital tool in widening participation in higher education, targeted directly at mature students attracting mostly people from areas of disadvantage who are either unemployed or low-earners. Many Access to HE students are women with young children, particularly on diplomas in the health sector.

Curriculum Delivery and Assessment

This diploma is designed for in-person, blended/hybrid and online delivery and assessment however, Providers who wish to use a delivery method which differs from that which is stated on their approval to run, they must contact the AVA to obtain approval.

All assessments are set and internally assessed by the Provider. There are no external assessments in this diploma.

This diploma requires internal and external quality assurance of assessments.

The Provider is responsible for ensuring that the assessment methods used during the course of this diploma are:

- Valid and reliable methods of assessing the learning outcomes given in unit specifications
- Appropriate to the given grading descriptors of the unit specifications

- Inclusive in consideration of the students on programme and any additional/alternative needs; and,
- Varied to include a range of methods relevant to the study of this diploma.

Some potential assessment methods which are suggested for this diploma include:

- Case Studies
- Debate
- Essays
- Examinations (open or closed book)
- Experimental Reports
- Practical/Demonstrations
- Presentations
- Reflective log
- Reports
- Research Reports
- Roleplays/Simulations
- Viva examinations.

The list above is not exhaustive, and not all methods must be used however a range is expected.

Recognising Achievement and Recognition of Prior Learning and Credit Transfer

Student achievement is recognised both through the award of credit (as identified on an achievement transcript) and the award of the qualification (as identified on a certificate), subsequent to the student having satisfied the requirements of the rules of combination of the named Diploma for which they are registered.

Where a student chooses to utilise prior learning, credit or experience rather than completing a unit(s) this will still result in the diploma if the credits total 60. Where the credit is transferred this will not show on the transcript. Where the credit is awarded via recognition of prior learning or experience this will show on the transcript as RPL and will not be graded.

No more than 30 credits required for the award of the Access to HE Diploma may be awarded through Recognition of Prior Learning or Credit Transfer (or a combination of the 2 methods).

6. Rules of Combination

6.1 Required achievements for the Access to HE Diploma

Each

Access to HE Diploma (Midwifery)	
Credit Value of the Diploma:	60
Students must achieve all the units within the chosen pathway of the Diploma.	

All Diplomas are 60 credits, irrespective of the place, subject or mode of study. Students accumulate credits through the completion of units worth either 3, 6 or 9 credits each.

Of the 60 credits 45 must be from graded units concerned with academic subject content, with the remaining 15 credits to be achieved from ungraded units.

Students undertaking any Access to HE Diploma, whatever their mode of study, must be:

- a) Students undertaking any Access to HE Diploma, whatever their mode of study, must be: registered to a QAA-recognised Access to HE Diploma no later than six weeks (42 days) from the student start date on the course
- b) registered for units to the value of 60 credits no later than 12 weeks from the start date of the Access to HE course, or before the student makes a formal application to a higher education course through UCAS or any other application process, whichever date occurs first
- c) registered and certificated for units to a maximum value of 60 credits.

8. Person authorising development of the Diploma Specification

I confirm that the Diploma meets QAA's qualification requirements and will be quality assured in accordance with this Diploma Specification. All providers delivering this Diploma and external moderators responsible for quality assuring it will have a copy of this Diploma Specification.

Name: (please print)	Jennie Lawson
Signature:	<i>Jennie Lawson</i>
Date:	31 July 2023
Post held:	Head of Access

This agreement will be reviewed by the AVA regularly.



Appendix 1 - Units of Assessment

Grading Descriptors

1	Understanding of the Subject	US	5	Communication and Presentation	CP
2	Application of Knowledge	AK	6	Autonomy / Independence	AI
3	Application of Skills	AS	7	Quality (Mandatory)	QU
4	Use of Information	UI			

Access to HE Diploma (Midwifery) Units

For every unit included in the table, further information, is included in the Unit Specification, including learning outcomes and assessment criteria. All units must be set out using the AVA standard format.

Select 45 Graded and 15 Ungraded credits.

Graded Units

Unit Title	Unit Id	CV	Grading
Biology: Body Structure and System Processes	AAA001	9	127
Biology: Endocrine System	YHR994	3	127
Biology: Hormone Regulation of Human Reproduction and Development	AAA003	3	127
Biology: Human Musculoskeletal System	AAA099	3	127
Biology: Human Reproduction, Growth and Development	AAA092	3	127
Biology: Human Sex and Reproduction	AAA005	3	127
Biology: Human Urinary System	AAA006	3	127
Biology: Infection and Immunity	CER146	6	127
Biology: Nutrition and Digestion	AAA014	3	127
Biology: The Cause and Control of Disease	YHS543	3	1247
Health Science: Fetal Development, Monitoring and Intervention	AAA017	6	1247
Health Science: Pregnancy and Health	AAA020	3	1247
Health: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Healthcare (Settings)	AAA023	3	1247
Health: Professionalism and Multidisciplinary Teams	YHS544	3	1247
Psychology: Early Attachment and Development	AAA027	3	127
Psychology: Perspectives in Psychology	CER202	3	127

Ungraded Units

Unit Title	Unit Id	CV
Biology: Exploring the Structure and Function of Cells	YHS542	6
Health: Exploring Healthcare Communication	AAA008	3
Social Policy: Exploring the Principles of Safeguarding	YHS488	3
Study Skills: Academic Writing Skills	YHS243	3
Study Skills: Reading and Note making	CER228	3
Study Skills: Reflective Practice	CER230	3

Unit Title	Unit Id	C V
Biology: Exploring the Structure and Function of Cells	YHS542	6
Study Skills: Researching and Understanding Opportunities in Higher Education	CER240	3