

Higher National Group Award Graded Unit Specification

General Information for Centres

This Group Award Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND in Veterinary Nursing. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Group Award Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Group Award Graded Unit Title: Veterinary Nursing: Group Award Graded Unit 3

Group Award Graded Unit Code: DJ0T 35

Type of Group Award Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Investigation

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Purpose: This Group Award Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HND in Veterinary Nursing:

- ◆ develop the ability to absorb, manage and evaluate large amounts of complex subject-specific information
- ◆ develop and apply a broad range of specialised vocational knowledge and skills, some of which involves recent developments and specialisms
- ◆ develop and apply skills in planning, organising, evaluating critically and proposing solutions to scenarios within veterinary nursing practice
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding in both non-routine and complex contexts
- ◆ build on previously acquired transferable skills
- ◆ communicate effectively with peers, staff and clients within the veterinary practice
- ◆ prepare for the RCVS part 2 external examination
- ◆ enable progression to further academic qualifications (including progression within SCQF).

Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills: It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Group Award Graded Unit:

- ◆ Small Animal Health and Disease
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Diagnostic Techniques
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Diagnostic Imaging Techniques
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Anaesthesia
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Theatre Practice
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Medical Conditions
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Surgical Procedures

General Information for Centres (cont)

Core Skills: There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or a Core Skill component as part of this Graded Unit. However, there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Problem Solving.

Assessment: This Group Award Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of an investigation. The “fleshed-out” investigation should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Group Award that this Group Award Graded Unit covers.

This Graded Unit should be undertaken on an individual basis. Candidates should select an appropriate project that involves following a particular animal patient with a serious condition, or conditions, from initial diagnosis to the completion of treatment, including appropriate medical and surgical procedures and associated nursing. When selecting a patient, candidates should make sure that it will be a sufficient basis for an investigation and that it meets all the requirements of this Graded Unit. It is not mandatory that knowledge and skills relating to all units listed above are included in the investigation since the scope for this will vary from patient to patient.

Administrative Information

Graded Unit Code: DJ0T 35

Graded Unit Title: Veterinary Nursing: Group Award Graded Unit 3

Date of publication: August 2004

Source: SQA

Special Needs: This Group Award Graded Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative assessment arrangements. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements* (December 2001, AA0645/3).

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Higher National Group Award Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Group Award Graded Unit Title: Veterinary Nursing: Group Award Graded Unit 3

Conditions of Assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the investigation. However, the instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and carry out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions, provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance. The assessment task should be marked as soon as possible after the completion date. The final grading given should reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion date. Reassessment of this Group Award Graded Unit should be based on a significantly different assessment task.

At this level, candidates should work independently. It is up to Centres to take reasonable steps to ensure that the project is the work of the candidate. For example, Centres may wish to informally question candidates at various stages on their knowledge and understanding of the project on which they have embarked. Centres should ensure that where research etc, is carried out in other establishments or under the supervision of others that the candidate does not receive undue assistance.

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ identify an animal patient appropriate for the investigation
- ◆ carry out research concerning the nature and aetiology of the condition(s)
- ◆ collate, interpret and analyse the information relating to the particular animal patient
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this group award Graded Unit has been designed to cover.

In selecting the animal patient for the investigation, care should be taken to identify an animal with significant medical or surgical treatment requirements. Either radiographic or other diagnostic techniques must be involved in establishing the nature of the condition(s) and the patient should normally require surgery. If more than one condition is found to exist, all must be included in the investigation together with possible inter-relationships.

Higher National Group Award Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C – competent, or A – highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to a high standard, and is quite clearly inter-related <p>demonstrates an accurate and insightful interpretation of the project brief</p> <p>is highly focused and relevant to the tasks associated with the project brief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ is clear and well structured throughout and language used is of a high standard in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence of the three essential phases of the project, is produced to an adequate standard ◆ demonstrates an acceptable interpretation of the project brief ◆ is focused and relevant to the tasks associated with the project brief ◆ is satisfactorily structured and language used is adequate in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills but this may lack some continuity and consistency

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined above. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this graded unit based on the following grade boundaries:

- ◆ A = 70% – 100%
- ◆ B = 60% – 69%
- ◆ C = 50% – 59%

Note: The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified in the evidence requirements section below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Higher National Group Award Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: planning; developing; and evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Note: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Group Award Graded Unit.

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning	<p>Developing an Action Plan which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the aims of the assessment task including research, development and evaluation ◆ timescales for achieving these aims ◆ the rationale for selecting the animal patient to be investigated ◆ identification of the main issues for research ◆ identification of the methods of research and sources to be used <p>Written evidence of the above should be presented. It may be supplemented by evidence provided orally by the candidate in discussion with the assessor. If this is done, a written record of the main points of the discussion should be provided.</p> <p><i>The action plan is worth 20% of the total marks for the investigation.</i></p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i></p>
Stage 2 — Developing	<p>Preparing a written Investigation Report which must include evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ collection and collation of data from the relevant patient records, observing confidentiality, where appropriate ◆ interpretation/analysis of data ◆ summary of the procedures that have been used, including their effectiveness and the long-term prognosis for the patient <p>The report should also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ a contents page ◆ a list of acknowledgements of sources and references. <p>The report should contain appropriate tables and diagrams and should be approximately 1500 words in length.</p> <p><i>The report is worth 60% of the total marks for the investigation.</i></p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>

**Higher National Group Award Graded Unit Specification:
Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing
candidates (cont)**

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<p>Providing an Evaluation Report which should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ briefly outline the investigation ◆ review and update the action plan in light of experience ◆ assess the effectiveness of the research methods used ◆ summarise any unforeseen events and how they were handled ◆ assess the strengths and weaknesses of the main body of the investigation report ◆ identify any knowledge and skills which have been gained and/or developed <p><i>The evaluation is worth 20% of the total marks for the investigation.</i></p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>