



**South African Nursing Council**  
(Under the provisions of the Nursing Act, 2005)

e-mail: [registrar@sanc.co.za](mailto:registrar@sanc.co.za)  
website: [www.sanc.co.za](http://www.sanc.co.za)

**SANC Fraud Hotline: 0800 20 12 16**

Cecilia Makiwane Building,  
602 Pretorius Street, Arcadia,  
Pretoria, 0083

Tel: 012 420-1000  
Fax: 012 343-5400

Private Bag X132, Pretoria, 0001  
Republic of South Africa

**EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES – POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FORENSIC NURSING**

**TABLE 1: FOUNDATIONAL EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES WITH ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Exit level outcomes	Associated assessment criteria
<p><b>1.</b> Practice within the ethical-legal parameters of the nursing profession, and resolve professional-ethical dilemmas by using decision making and moral reasoning models.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Critical decision making and moral reasoning models are used to guide clinical practice and resolve professional-ethical dilemmas within Forensic nursing care.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> The relevant latest legislation, policies, protocols, regulations, guidelines, directives and applicable ethics regarding Forensic healthcare are applied in practice.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> The professional/ ethical and legal frameworks guide the Forensic Nurse Specialist practice.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Practice and facilitate advocacy for the patient's rights and best interests.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Ethical codes, professional accountability, responsibility, confidentiality and standards for practice of Forensic nursing are interpreted and applied consistently and correctly.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Apply knowledge of basic research methodology in the appraisal of articles in the field of Forensic healthcare.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Academic writing skills are demonstrated in research reports.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Research articles in the field of Forensic healthcare are appraised through the application of basic knowledge of research methodology.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research designs are accurately differentiated.</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Evidence-based practice of research findings are integrated for safe, effective and efficient practice.</p>

**TABLE 2: CORE EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES WITH ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Exit level outcomes	Associated assessment criteria
<p><b>The Forensic Nurse Specialist will:</b></p>	
<p><b>3.</b> Demonstrate advanced knowledge of patient/ family/ victim/ community-centred Forensic nursing care of patients in a variety of clinical settings, to promote health outcomes.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Health and legal outcomes are promoted through the demonstration of knowledge of patient/ family/ victim/ community-centred Forensic nursing care of patients in a variety of health care settings.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Epidemiological data on violence are interpreted and used to plan a community awareness programme/campaign.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Best available evidence, theories or models on victim support are compared and debated.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Legislation that applies to victims are identified and debated and recommendations communicated to authorities.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> The victim’s rights are considered throughout care provision.</p> <p><b>3.6</b> Best available evidence are used to plan a healing environment for victims.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> The influence of the social, political, cultural and economic developments within the country on the provision of Forensic nursing care are debated, and recommendations communicated to authorities with the ultimate goal of improving Forensic nursing practice.</p> <p><b>3.8</b> Criteria to maintain “chain of custody” are debated.</p> <p><b>3.9</b> Biomedical, pharmacology and psychosocial sciences are used to explain interpretation of health assessment findings and management of patients/ victims.</p> <p><b>3.10</b> Subjective and objective assessment findings are interpreted and debated in order to make a diagnosis.</p> <p><b>3.11</b> Comprehensive individual, people-centred, inter-professional treatment plans are based on assessment findings and standardised national and contextually appropriate guidelines.</p>

	<p><b>3.12</b> Care priorities are established in relation to the victim’s problems and severity, with due consideration of system and practice challenges.</p> <p><b>3.13</b> Comprehensive, inter-professional, person-centred care is planned per victim.</p> <p><b>3.14</b> The rationale and safety measures of technology used in assessing and treating victims of violence are explained and debated.</p> <p><b>3.15</b> Care pathways and the referral system are explored and debated.</p> <p><b>3.16</b> Legal testimony is prepared per case.</p> <p><b>3.17</b> Medico-legal standards are used to audit files of victims.</p> <p><b>3.18</b> Accuracy of data on violence is evaluated.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Render and coordinate comprehensive person/family/ victim/ community-centred healthcare for patients in a variety of healthcare settings, in order to promote health and legal outcomes.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Health and legal outcomes are promoted through rendering and coordinating specialist Forensic nursing care of patients/ victims/ families/ communities in a variety of forensic (medico-legal) care settings.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Community awareness is raised through implementation of epidemiologically informed programmes.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> A safe and therapeutic environment is created and sustained in the Victim Support Centre by applying best available evidence.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> The victim’s rights are respected throughout care provision.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Set standards are applied during victim support interviews.</p> <p><b>4.6</b> “Chain of custody” is maintained through appropriate handling of specimens and record-keeping. Assessments and collection of specimens are performed competently.</p> <p><b>4.7</b> Clinical reasoning is demonstrated through the consideration of social determinants of health, all objective and subjective data, as well as the victim’s preferences.</p> <p><b>4.8</b> Comprehensive inter-professional, multi-sectoral, people-centred Forensic nursing care is executed competently, and is well coordinated.</p>

	<p><b>4.9</b> Severity of the victim’s injury/ condition is calculated according to standardised tools, and optimal interventions are executed within the limitations of the system and practice.</p> <p><b>4.10</b> Technology is used safely and in ways that facilitate diagnosis and optimal treatment of the victim.</p> <p><b>4.11</b> Positive legal outcomes are achieved by testifying in court.</p> <p><b>4.12</b> Care pathways and the referral system are used appropriately and effectively.</p> <p><b>4.13</b> Forensic specialist care is documented according to care and legal standards.</p> <p><b>4.14</b> Statistics on violence are captured accurately and utilised to improve Forensic nursing practice.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Apply scientific knowledge and principles of the systematic review and guideline development process, in order to evaluate and review the standard of guidelines used in Forensic clinical practice.</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Current evidence-based guidelines used in Forensic clinical practice are evaluated and reported at predetermined times to improve health care.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Academic and professional writing skills are demonstrated in reports and guidelines.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Research questions are formulated according to the PICO and any other format.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> Evidence-based practice, theories or models on patient/ family/ victim/ community care are critically appraised and best practice guidelines are adopted to improve health care service delivery.</p> <p><b>5.5</b> Databases are searched by using <i>Boolean</i> and other information search strategies.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Apply principles of evidence-based care to ensure quality patient care and safety in Forensic nursing care.</p>	<p><b>6.1</b> Quality of patient care and safety in forensic nursing are promoted by implementing evidence-based practice.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Use systematic reviews to improve client experience and outcomes in Forensic nursing.</p> <p><b>6.3</b> Quality audits aimed at improving patient services are performed at predetermined times.</p> <p><b>6.4</b> Critique, develop and implement clinical standards for Forensic nursing.</p>

	<p><b>6.5</b> Patient outcomes in Forensic nursing care, including quality patient care and safety, are continuously monitored.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Implement strategies to develop self and peers by promoting self-directedness through a process of presenting and mentoring.</p>	<p><b>7.1</b> Precepting and mentoring processes are applied to develop self and peers.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Activities towards enhancing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) are evident.</p> <p><b>7.3</b> Thinking/ reasoning processes of self and others are developed through facilitation of learning.</p> <p><b>7.4</b> Learning theories are applied in own development and the development of others.</p> <p><b>7.5</b> A positive learning environment is created by supporting peers and novices.</p> <p><b>7.6</b> Academic networks are established and used to sustain personal development.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Manage Forensic nursing services by implementing effective medico-legal norms, practices and standards within an inter-professional team</p>	<p><b>8.1</b> Forensic health services are managed according to medico-legal norms, practices and standards within an inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>8.2</b> Appropriate leadership styles are demonstrated within the Forensic inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>8.3</b> Shared decision making opportunities regarding Forensic healthcare services are created and documented.</p> <p><b>8.4</b> Benchmarks and best practices are accessed and used to develop indicators for quality and cost effectiveness in Forensic nursing.</p> <p><b>8.5</b> Resources are mobilized and utilized to optimize Forensic nursing care.</p> <p><b>8.6</b> Referral/care pathways are analysed and optimized.</p> <p><b>8.7</b> The activities of the inter-professional forensic team are well coordinated.</p> <p><b>8.8</b> Data on violence are used for decision-making.</p>