AIMS
The aim of this unit is to enhance the student’s knowledge base related to physiological processes, and develop their ability to holistically assess critically ill patients and to enable them to deliver appropriate nursing management to patients in their care. Students should have a minimum of 12 months Critical care experience prior to enrolling on this unit.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES
Having completed this unit the student is expected to:

1. Assimilate a comprehensive knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of body systems
2. Undertake comprehensive holistic patient assessment that includes physical examination and interpretation of supportive medical data
3. Critically analyse and evaluate the assessment findings and the ability to plan care which will be supported by the latest evidence, research and local protocols
4. Develop an appropriate plan of treatment for patients within their care and critically evaluate their care interventions
5. Develop a therapeutic relationship with the patient and their family, and use of appropriate communication strategies to keep them realistically informed regarding interventions and progress

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS
The student will encounter a variety of lectures, seminars, tutorials and self-managed learning. They will spend a minimum of 90 hours engaged in direct practice in their own clinical area, where he/she will be allocated a clinical supervisor.

INDICATIVE ASSESSMENT
Intended learning outcomes 1 to 5 are assessed through a written assessment of 5,000 words equiv (100%)

Formative Assessment
Outcome 1 will be assessed by completion of an anatomy and physiology workbook and test
**Summative Assessment**  
Outcomes 1-5 will be assessed via an essay based on a client they have nursed who has multi-system failure (failure of two or more systems) (100%)  

**INDICATIVE CONTENT**  
- Homeostatic Principles  
- Fluid Balance  
- Respiratory System and Supportive Therapies  
- Cardiovascular System and Haemodynamic Monitoring  
- Cardiovascular Support Therapies  
- Renal System and Supportive Therapies  
- Nervous System and Supportive Therapies  
- Immunology  
- Gastrointestinal System and Supportive Therapies  
- Infection and Infection Control  
- Pharmacokinetics  
- Role of the Nurse in ITU  
- Communication techniques  
- Psychological care  

**Suggested Learning Resources**  

**Books**  


**Journals**  

British Journal of Intensive Care Nursing  
British Journal of Nursing  
Intensive Care Medicine  
Journal of Advanced Nursing
Care of the Critically Ill
Intensive and Critical Care Nursing

Professional Nurse
Senior Nurse