

# GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING SCIENCE (ACUTE CARE NURSING)

## Overview

The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Acute Care Nursing) is a generic plan covering a varied number of practice settings. It has a core common to all medical and surgical and high acuity sub-specialties. It is envisaged the program will draw students from the Acute Care setting, primarily tertiary and regional health centres with practice focused in the medical, surgical and high acuity areas.

It is composed of six courses, four of which have an Acute Care focus. Semester 1 clinical courses are compulsory. Clinical courses offered in Semester 2 contain one compulsory course and the choice of a specialty. The two remaining core courses are compulsory and must be completed by all students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Acute Care Nursing); Developing Advanced Practice in Health Systems I and II. These two courses are provided in flexible learning mode.

Students will be exposed to current theoretical knowledge and evidence based clinical practice. Exposure to relevant current debates and issues in Acute Care practice will be integral in building students' professional understanding of nursing in this context. The therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the patient will be intertwined throughout the courses offered.

Successful completion of Semester 1 specialty courses is a prerequisite for continuing in the Semester 2 specialty courses.

## Program Duration

This program can be undertaken either full-time over one year or part-time over two years.

## Entry Requirements

This academic plan is offered to registered nurses currently employed full-time or a minimum of 0.6 in the Acute Care setting, specifically the medical, surgical, high acuity areas and their associated sub-specialties.

## Program Coordinators



### **Katrina Hite and Samantha Clausen**

Telephone: +61 8 8303 6286

Email: [katrina.hite@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:katrina.hite@adelaide.edu.au)

[samantha.clausen@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:samantha.clausen@adelaide.edu.au)

## Teaching Methods

Teaching methods will follow flexible learning delivery methods using the Virtual Classroom for lectures and tutorials, self-directed activities and exercises in conjunction with a workshop. MyUni will be an integral part of the delivery of this program with the use of Discussion Boards. It is expected that virtual classroom attendance will be no less than eighty percent.

## SPECIALITY CORE COURSES

### Nursing & Medical Science in Acute Care Nursing I

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course is designed to provide a theoretical framework in nursing and medical science that is specific to the area of Acute Care practice. The focus is on physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, therapeutics and nursing science delivered via lectures and workshops in a thematic modular fashion.
Assessment:	Case Study (50%) Exam (50%)

### Acute Care Nursing

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course compliments the concepts and knowledge presented in Nursing and Medical Science in Acute Care Nursing. It links theory with practice and consists of field based learning within the area of Acute Care practice, supported by online tutorials and workshops. It focuses on clinical skills acquisition through field based learning in the practice setting of acute care nursing.
Assessment:	Tutorial Presentation (50%) Essay (50%)

### Nursing & Medical Science in Acute Care Nursing II

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course is designed to provide a theoretical framework in nursing and medical science that is specific to the area of Acute Care practice. The focus is on physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, therapeutics and nursing science delivered via lectures, workshops in a thematic modular fashion.
Assessment:	Poster (50%) Exam (50%)

## SPECIALITY ELECTIVE COURSES

### High Acuity Nursing

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course links theory with practice and consists of field based learning within the area of advanced practice in the Acute Care setting supported by online tutorials, lectures and workshops. It focuses on relevant advanced clinical skills acquisition covering topics from advanced life support, an introduction to mechanical ventilation, haemo-dynamic monitoring, assessment and management of the critically ill patient through to arrhythmia and ECG interpretation via field based learning in the practice setting.
Assessment:	Essay (50%) Portfolio (50%)

### Medical Nursing

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course is designed to provide a theoretical framework specifically in Medical Nursing intertwined with the acquisition of advanced clinical skills that are pertinent. The focus is on physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, therapeutics and nursing science, of the most prevalent conditions relevant to Medical Nursing. The course will be delivered via modules in a thematic fashion.
Assessment:	Essay (50%) Portfolio (50%)

### Surgical Nursing

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course is designed to provide a theoretical framework specifically in Surgical Nursing intertwined with the acquisition of advanced clinical skills that are pertinent. The focus is on physiology, pathophysiology, biochemistry, therapeutics and nursing science, of the most prevalent conditions relevant to Surgical Nursing. The course will be delivered via modules in a thematic fashion.
Assessment:	Essay (50%) Portfolio (50%)

## CORE COURSES

### Developing Advanced Practice in Health Systems I

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course examines contemporary issues related to advanced nursing practice and considers the supports and constraints within which nurses practice. Topics include ethics of care, leadership, advocacy, evidence based practice, health service management, professional standards, health informatics and multicultural health care.
Assessment:	Annotated Bibliography (40%) Essay (60%)

### Developing Advanced Practice in Health Systems II

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course examines the evaluation of clinical practice through clinical audit. Students progress through a series of readings and activities that introduce clinical audit and then progressively work through the processes involved in the development, conduct and reporting of an audit of clinical practice.
Assessment:	Clinical Audit Proposal (25%) Clinical Audit Report (75%)

### Focused Reading in Clinical Nursing (for students granted advanced standing)

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Learning Mode
Content:	This course examines contemporary clinical nursing practice through a critical review of the literature with a focus on acute care nursing practice. Students are required to follow a protocol to ensure scientific rigour and minimise potential bias.
Assessment:	Focused Reading Protocol (35%) Focused Reading Report (65%)

## APPLICATIONS

For application and admission information see Student Centre web site: [www.adelaide.edu.au/programs](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/programs)  
Application for this program is made through the SATAC GradStart admissions portal [www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au).  
SATAC code: 3GD029

Applicants must also complete an "Additional Information Request Form", available at the Discipline of Nursing web site. This form should be submitted within ten working days after applying to SATAC.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact the Discipline of Nursing for information.

Telephone: +61 8 8303 3595

Email: [nursing.sec@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:nursing.sec@adelaide.edu.au)

Further information available at [www.health.adelaide.edu.au/nursing](http://www.health.adelaide.edu.au/nursing)