

# GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING SCIENCE (GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING)

## Overview

Nurses who provide specialised care to the older person across a range of health care settings require specific skills and knowledge to ensure that their practice is based on best available evidence. This graduate diploma is designed to provide opportunities for nurses to develop advanced specialist skills in clinical inquiry, practice and leadership specifically in the field of aged care nursing. The successful completion of the courses leads to the award of Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Gerontological Nursing). The program consists of four specialty courses covering ageing, assessment, palliative care and contemporary issues in aged care and two core courses Developing Advanced Practice in Health Systems I and II. For students granted advanced standing there is a course of focused reading or other courses may be studied at the discretion of the course coordinator.



## Course Author

In 2009 Professor Heather Gibb a recognised expert in the field of Gerontology re-developed the specialty courses of the program in collaboration with an advisory panel consisting of expert practitioners and stakeholders in Gerontology.

## Program Duration

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

## Entry Requirements

Entry to the program is restricted to candidates who are registered nurses who are currently employed in an aged care setting or a setting with a large population of ageing clients.

## Program Coordinators

This program is coordinator is to be advised.

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## Teaching Methods

This program is offered by flexible delivery (off campus study) with several virtual classroom sessions each semester and is undertaken over one year of full-time study or two years of part-time study. The courses offered in each semester will depend on student enrolments. All students are required to complete six courses (each of 4 units). The 'Virtual Classroom' is a system that allows students to log in via their personal or workplace computers to a classroom. Each student has a head-set and is able to hear their lecturer deliver presentations with PowerPoint slides that can be viewed. Discussion sessions can be held with one student or the lecturer talking at any one time. A photo of the speaker can be displayed in the presentation area of the screen. Students can also type in questions and text that can be seen on the screen and can be viewed at any time.

## SPECIALITY COURSES

### Contemporary Issues in Aged Care

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Delivery Mode (external with Virtual Classroom sessions)
Content:	This course will provide graduates with an understanding of the role of government in aged care in Australia. The aim of the course is to support basic critical thinking and analysis of the Australian government's policy direction and system of funding and regulation of aged care services. It also aims to impart to students understanding and skill in use of the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI), as well as participating in accreditation compliance technologies of self assessment and continuous improvement.
Assessment:	Portfolio of Learning Activities (60%) Essay (40%) Discussion Board participation (Pass/Fail)

### Gerontological Nursing

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Delivery Mode (external with Virtual Classroom sessions)
Content:	This course prepares graduates to lead an aged care workforce in providing clinical care for elderly people with special care needs. The course covers major areas of complex care need, such as dementia, medication management, nutrition, continence management and falls prevention. The course locates clinical practice within a framework of care planning, implementation and evaluation.
Assessment:	Case Study (40%) Portfolio of Learning Activities (60%) Discussion Board participation (Pass/Fail)

## Functional Assessment

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Delivery Mode (external with Virtual Classroom sessions)
Content:	This course will provide graduates with an understanding of the importance of a holistic or comprehensive assessment as the bedrock of aged care planning and management. The aim of the course is to support the development of critical thinking and competency in undertaking this first step of assessing an elderly person, within the overall service of care.
Assessment:	Functional Assessment (60%) Case Study (40%)

## Palliative Nursing in Aged Care

Units:	4 units
Teaching period:	Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours:	Flexible Delivery Mode (external with Virtual Classroom sessions)
Content:	This course focuses on the palliative care requirements of the elderly. Topics include principles of palliative care, non specialist practice in the area of palliative care, ageing, dying and grieving, the ethics of dying, patient's and relative's needs, pain management, symptom control, alternative therapies, spiritual/religious and cultural issues.
Assessment:	Essay (40%) Portfolio of Learning Activities (60%) Discussion Board participation (pass/fail)

## 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.

Web site: [www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au)

SATAC code: 3GD036

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.

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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)