Overview

Emergency Nursing is concerned with the assessment and care of people who present to emergency departments (ED). People present to EDs with a wide variety of complaints, some present with minor injuries or illnesses while others are life threatening emergencies. The emergency nurse needs to be able to sort everyone into categories, so that the sickest person is identified and seen first and then to be able to initiate best practice care. In order to accomplish this, emergency nurses must understand the pathophysiology of emergency conditions and how these are manifest as signs and symptoms. Emergency nurses also need to know how to care for minor injuries and illnesses, as this is an area in which nurses are becoming increasingly involved with the introduction of nurse practitioners.

The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Emergency Nursing) provides graduates with a rigorous grounding in emergency care. This will include cardiac rhythm and ECG interpretation, chest radiograph interpretation, oxygen therapy and many more skills. The following areas of traumatic injury will also be covered; thoracic, spinal, head and brain, orthopaedic, abdominal, burns and paediatric injuries. This will provide students with a broad grounding in pathologies that cause people to present to emergency departments. Students will also graduate with a sound practical knowledge of; physical examination, history taking, body systems examination, initiating infusions, haemodynamic monitoring, defibrillation, external cardiac pacing, assisting with endotracheal intubation, triage, intermittent positive pressure ventilation, plastering, bandaging and splinting, using crutches, suturing, paediatric and adult resuscitation, preserving forensic evidence, pain management, grief and loss, and discharging patients. Successful completion of Semester 1 specialty courses is a prerequisite for continuing in Semester 2 specialty courses.

Degree Duration

The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science degree can be undertaken either full-time over one year or part-time over two years. The maximum time limit to complete a Graduate Diploma is four years as specified in the Coursework Academic Programs Policy.

Entry Requirements

An applicant for admission to the program of study for the Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science shall:
> be registered, or be eligible for registration, as a nurse in Australia and be employed at a minimum of 0.64 FTE (full time equivalent) in emergency nursing; and
> have qualified for a degree of Bachelor of Nursing, or equivalent, from a university accepted for the purposes by the University; and
> have at least two years experience as a registered nurse in the field of the specialisation to be undertaken.

Fees

For the fees applicable to this program, refer to Degree Finder: www.adelaide.edu.au/degree-finder/

Contact

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Teaching Methods

The material of this degree will be taught by lectures in a classroom setting and in interactive tutorials held in clinical locations and skills labs. Notes and other materials will be available through the university’s interactive online educational environment, MyUni.
Speciality core course
Courses are subject to availability.

7118 Critical Care Essentials
Units: 3 units
Teaching period: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours: Three on-campus workshops during the semester
Content: This course will prepare clinicians practicing in critical care environments to assess, identify and manage those patients experiencing (or with the potential to experience) a critical physiological decline. This will include the identification of the deteriorating patient, incorporating advanced assessment skills and advanced life support skills. These specialised critical care skills will enable the clinician to participate in the holistic approach to the delivery of critical care within the framework of a multidisciplinary team.

7031 Foundations of Critical Care
Units: 6 units
Teaching period: Semester 1
Contact hours: 4 hours of lecture and tutorial sessions on campus each week. 2-3 clinical sessions on campus throughout the semester.
Content: This course introduces the advanced practice nurse to the provision of care in the critical care setting. The concepts of assessment of the critically ill patient and the initial prioritising of care will be explored. The nursing and medical science related to the cardiac and pulmonary systems will be discussed in detail. The theoretical concepts and knowledge gained will enable the advanced practice nurse to engage in discussions regarding the principles of critical care nursing. It will have both theoretical and clinical components supported by classroom teaching. Students will also be expected to complete a range of clinical competencies throughout the course.

7128 Emergency Nursing II
Units: 3 units
Teaching period: Semester 2
Contact hours: 2 hours per week
Content: This course contains the theory that supports emergency nursing care. This course is designed to provide the emergency nursing student with a sound understanding of the principles of trauma management, with specific attention paid to significant body systems affected by physical trauma. The semester also branches out into common non-traumatic emergency presentations. Reference will be made to variations across the age continuum as required. This course will build on the knowledge gained from first semester, with the overall aim to provide the student with recent and comprehensive clinical and theoretical information on emergency medical and nursing care.

7129 Emergency Nursing III
Units: 3 units
Teaching period: Semester 2
Contact hours: 2 hours per week
Content: This course will provide a blend of theory and practise within the emergency department. Specific emergency presentations will be discussed, as well as the broader concepts of care coordination throughout the emergency department, self and staff support. The current clinical issues that face emergency nurses will be explored, encouraging the student to develop strategies for dealing with issues in a dynamic and busy environment. The second part of the semester will broadly focus on developing the students confidence in leading teams, identifying and addressing psychosocial issues experienced by patients, relatives/ significant others and staff, and addressing issues that are unique to the emergency context.
Core courses

7102OL Research Literacy
Units: 3 units
Teaching period: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours: Flexible Learning Mode
Content: This course is designed to familiarise students with the methodologies used in health research. Students will learn about empirical methods such as experimental studies and also the fundamentals of interpretive and critical methodologies, such as phenomenology. The aim is for students to learn how to read and critically evaluate research relating to their practice.

7100OL Knowledge Translation
Units: 3 units
Teaching period: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours: Flexible Learning Mode
Content: This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to access, critique and incorporate evidence into their practice with the aim of improving patient care. Students will consider the context in which their practice occurs, and use pragmatic methods of assessing where practice needs to improve through facilitating a multi-disciplinary team.

7101OL Professional Practice
Units: 3 units
Teaching period: Semester 1 or Semester 2
Contact hours: Flexible Learning Mode
Content: This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to consider a number of issues faced by registered nurses in advanced practice settings. Concepts such as accountability, ethical decision-making, advocacy, leadership in nursing practice, culturally competent nursing, evidence-based practice and the nurse practitioner role are considered as this course assists the student to explore the perimeters within which nurses practise.

Study Plan
Students must follow the study plan to guide enrolment for the duration of the degree. Any deviations from the study plan must be discussed with the Specialty Coordinator.

Applications
For application and admission information refer to Degree Finder: www.adelaide.edu.au/degree-finder/
Application for this degree is made through SATAC: www.satac.edu.au

SATAC code: 3GD034