Overview
The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Oncology) is an academic plan designed to provide the registered nurse caring for people with cancer and their families the opportunity to develop advanced theoretical knowledge and specialist skills in oncology nursing. This degree is designed to:

> improve the student’s knowledge of cancer disease processes, treatments used and the possible outcomes of these treatments;
> improve the student’s clinical skills necessary for practice in an area where technology is continually changing. This will facilitate safe and competent practice;
> build on knowledge already acquired through working in the speciality. Encouraging the student to research and examine the literature in the area of cancer nursing will enhance knowledge, in turn supporting the care provided to the person with cancer, their families and friends.

The degree consists of six courses as outlined in this brochure (three core courses and three specialty courses).

Successful completion of Haematology/Oncology Nursing I is a prerequisite for undertaking Haematology/Oncology Nursing II.

Teaching Methods
This academic plan will be taught using offline delivery, online classroom tutorials and a two day on campus workshop per semester.

Degree Duration
This degree can only be undertaken part-time over 18 months to 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 oncology 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 degree, refer to Degree Finder: www.adelaide.edu.au/degree-finder/

Contact
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**Speciality core course**

Courses are subject to availability. Not every course will run each year, please contact the Adelaide Nursing School for more information.

**7138 Haematology/Oncology Nursing I**

- **Units:** 6 units
- **Teaching period:** Semester 1
- **Contact hours:** Flexible Learning Mode; on campus workshop; weekly, one hour tutorials via the online classroom
- **Content:** This course of study aims to increase a student’s theoretical knowledge of the disease process and treatment of cancer. It will examine the concepts of epidemiology, aetiology and pathology of cancer along with contemporary and emerging treatment modalities and their effects. The cancer journey is considered with a focus on developing understanding of the patient experience. Skills acquirement within the students clinical environment is an integral part of this course.

**7139 Haematology/Oncology Nursing II**

- **Units:** 6 units
- **Teaching period:** Semester 2
- **Contact hours:** Flexible Learning Mode; on campus workshop; weekly, one hour tutorials via the online classroom
- **Content:** This course of study builds on the topics covered in semester I. It will enable the student to apply the concepts of epidemiology, pathophysiology and disease process to specific malignancies and how they are managed. Sub speciality paediatric haematology/oncology care is also addressed; other specific areas will include nutrition and oncology emergencies.

**7140 Haematology & Oncology Nursing Practice**

- **Units:** 3 units
- **Teaching period:** Semester 1
- **Contact hours:** Flexible Learning Mode
- **Content:** In this course students will examine and consider concepts of haematology/oncology nursing practice that are essential for safe and effective patient outcomes

**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 student 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, 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: 3GD040

Further information available at www.health.adelaide.edu.au/nursing
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