Overview
The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Cardiac Nursing) is designed to develop advanced theoretical knowledge and specialist skills essential for the registered nurse to proficiently assess and manage adult patients admitted to hospital with acute and chronic cardiac conditions. The foundation courses in cardiac nursing focus on the pathophysiology, patient assessment, monitoring, investigations and management of the patient with cardiac disease and on the acquisition of practical skills necessary to care for critically ill cardiac patients. Graduates will have a comprehensive knowledge of the interventional, medical and surgical cardiac patient and be equipped to care for patients admitted to the following; medical cardiology units, interventional cardiology units, cardiothoracic surgical units and cardiac catheterisation laboratories. Students will also graduate with a sound knowledge and understanding of research techniques and the importance of an evidence base and critical review of practice. Successful completion of Semester 1 specialty courses is a prerequisite for continuing in Semester 2 specialty courses.

Teaching Methods
The theoretical and clinical courses are taught within online learning environment, face-to-face lectures and clinical settings. A significant aspect of the clinical teaching component occurs at the bedside to facilitate knowledge translation to clinical practice. Hence, preceptorship is strongly encouraged.

Degree Duration
The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science program 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 cardiac nursing; and
> have qualified for a degree of Bachelor of Nursing, or equivalent, of 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
Julia Muller Spiti
Telephone: +61 8 8313 6284
Email: julia.mullerspiti@adelaide.edu.au
**Speciality core course**

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

### 7031 Foundations of Critical Care

**Units:** 6 units  
**Teaching period:** Semester 1  
**Contact hours:** 4 hours of lectures 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.

### 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.

### 7151 Cardiovascular Care

**Units:** 6 units  
**Teaching period:** Semester 2  
**Contact hours:** 4 hours of lectures and tutorial sessions on campus each week. 2-3 clinical sessions on campus throughout the semester.  
**Content:** The course is designed for nurses caring for the interventional, medical and surgical cardiovascular patient cohorts. The course consists of a number of sections including risk factors, assessment & investigations; pathophysiology & medical management of the cardiovascular patient; other management strategies are such as, mechanical cardiac support, interventional cardiology, cardiac surgery and transplantation; and finally, secondary prevention, cardiac rehabilitation & palliation. The theoretical concepts and knowledge gained will enable the advanced practice nurse to engage in discussions regarding the principles of cardiovascular 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.
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, 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 practice.

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: 3GD032

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

The University of Adelaide
SA 5005 Australia

Telephone: +61 8 8313 5208
Freecall: 1800 061 459
Online enquiries: adelaide.edu.au/ask-adelaide/

adelaide.edu.au
facebook.com/uniofadelaide
twitter.com/uniofadelaide
youtube.com/universityofadelaide

DISCLAIMER: The information in this publication is current as at the date of printing and is subject to change. You can find updated information on our website at adelaide.edu.au. With the aim of continual improvement the University of Adelaide is committed to regular reviews of the degrees, diplomas, certificates and courses on offer. As a result the specific programs and courses available will change from time to time. Please refer to adelaide.edu.au for the most up-to-date information or contact us on 1800 061 459. The University of Adelaide assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information provided by third parties.