



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

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 in the adult sector. It has a core common to all medical surgical and high acuity sub-specialties. It is envisaged the degree 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, three of which have an acute care focus.

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.

This program of study is focused on early detection and appropriate intervention for the patient who suffers unexpected clinical decline. Students undertaking this study will become adept at early recognition and response to the deteriorating patient.

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

Teaching Methods

Teaching methods will follow flexible learning delivery methods using the Online Classroom for lectures and tutorials, self-directed activities and exercises. MyUni will be an integral part of the delivery of this degree. It is expected that online classroom attendance will be no less than eighty percent.

Degree Duration

The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science degree can be undertaken 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 acute care 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:

adelaide.edu.au/degree-finder/

Contact



Sindy Millington

Telephone: +61 8 8313 2996

Email: sindy.millington@adelaide.edu.au

Speciality Core courses

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

7113 Recognition and Response to Clinical Deterioration

Units: 3 units

Teaching period: Semester 1

Contact hours: Flexible Learning Mode with Online Classroom Lectures, plus one on-campus workshop during the semester.

Content: This course will equip the Acute Care Nurse with physical assessment skills that enable early recognition of the adult patient suffering unexpected clinical deterioration, leading to timely and appropriate management. It will provide both theoretical and clinical components that enable application to practice. It will be supported by synchronised online collaborative learning. Topics will include, but are not limited to, pathophysiology and emergency management using a systematic approach to body systems, supported by Australian Resuscitation Guidelines where appropriate.

7105 Acute Care Nursing I

Units: 6 units

Teaching period: Semester 1

Contact hours: Flexible Learning Mode with Online Classroom Lectures, plus one on-campus workshop during the semester.

Content: This course will examine nursing and medical science in relation to acute care nursing in the adult sector and will examine advanced principles of acute care nursing focusing on a systems approach. Pathophysiology and disease progression will be incorporated into a clinically focused agenda. Theoretical concepts and clinical practice will be interwoven. This course will be supported by synchronised online collaborative learning.

7106 Acute Care Nursing II

Units: 6 units

Teaching period: Semester 2

Contact hours: Flexible learning mode with Online Classroom contact.

Content: This course will further examine nursing and medical science in relation to acute care nursing in the adult sector. Common pathologies and current treatment modalities will be explored. This course will build and develop knowledge of advanced physiology, pathophysiology, therapeutics and nursing science within the context of acute care nursing. This course will be supported by synchronised online collaborative learning.

Core courses

71020L 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.

71000L 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.

71010L 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: adelaide.edu.au/degree-finder/

Application for this program is made through SATAC: satac.edu.au

SATAC code: 3GD029



FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

The University of Adelaide SA 5005 Australia

ENQUIRIES future.ask.adelaide.edu.au

TELEPHONE +61 8 8313 5208

FREE-CALL 1800 061 459

 nursing.adelaide.edu.au

 facebook.com/uoa.health

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