

Master of Nursing Practice – Critical Care

Cloud Campus (online)

Course outcomes

The Critical Care course aims to prepare graduates to practise effectively at an advanced practice level in critical care settings. Graduates will demonstrate ethical, safe, high quality, expert clinical decision making within an interdisciplinary team, and psychomotor skills commensurate with specialised theoretical knowledge, evidence-based practice and person or client-centred care.

Course delivery

The units of the Master of Nursing Practice Specialty Course – Critical Care are delivered as a combination of classes, Cloud (online) modules and seminars. Students enrol as Cloud students, however there are significant campus requirements. This includes a compulsory 4 day (Certificate) or 5 day (Certificate and Diploma) introductory program held at the Melbourne Burwood campus in early February each year.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery is internationally renowned and distinguishes itself through world leading research and education programs.

Our courses offer flexibility in terms of course structure and learning, and respond to the demands of industry and partnership/ collaborating hospitals for nurses with sophisticated specialty skills and knowledge to improve quality of care and patient safety.



MASTER OF NURSING PRACTICE – CRITICAL CARE

Course structure

Course code: H771

Offered at: Cloud Campus (online)

Duration: 1.5 years full-time or up to 4 years part-time study

Intake: March (Trimester 1)

Students will enrol in the Master of Nursing Practice (H771) and may exit either at the graduate certificate or graduate diploma level.

Level	Credit points + duration	Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Graduate certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 credit points of core specialty study. Completed part time over a period of one year in partnership with an appropriate specialty area with a minimum of 24 hours clinical employment per week. 	Core units	
		HNN751 Advanced Physiology and Patient Assessment	HNN767 Critical Care Nursing 1
		HNN752 Core Principles of Care for the Critically Ill Patient	HNN777 Critical Care Nursing 2

Level	Credit points + duration	Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Graduate diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 credit points of study. Usually completed over a period of two years of part-time study, but can be taken over one year full time. Study cannot exceed a three year period. 	Core units	
		HNN750 Inquiry into Specialty Nursing Practice	HNN788 Advanced Concepts in Specialty Nursing Practice
		Elective units	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete 2 x additional elective units to complete 8 credit points of study for the Graduate Diploma. Refer to the Master of Nursing Practice flyer for a list of available electives. 	

Level	Credit points + duration	Trimester 1+2	
Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 12 credit points of study (including previous units taken at graduate certificate or diploma level). Can be undertaken up to 4 years part-time. 	Elective units (if completing Master of Nursing Practice by coursework)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete 4 x additional elective units to complete 12 credit points of study for the Master of Nursing Practice by coursework. 	
		Thesis units (if completing Master of Nursing Practice by minor thesis)	
		HNN725 Research Thesis A (2 credit points)	HNN726 Research Thesis B (2 credit points)
		Note	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To graduate at Master Level and meet Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) requirements, students must complete a 2 credit point research unit (HNN727). Students may elect to do this unit as part of the Graduate Diploma or in place of 2 elective units if completing Master by coursework. 	

Core unit outlines

HNN751: ADVANCED PHYSIOLOGY AND PATIENT ASSESSMENT

This unit covers the role of specialist nurses in managing critically ill patients in relation to: the principles and concepts of homeostasis related to acid-base status, fluid and electrolyte balance, haematology and electrocardiography; advanced complex patient assessment and monitoring of cardiovascular, respiratory, haemodynamic, neurological, renal and gastrointestinal systems based on physiological and pathophysiological considerations for critically ill and injured patients; and basic and advanced life support by critical care specialist nurses.

HNN752: CORE PRINCIPLES OF CARE FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

This unit covers the role of specialist nurses in managing critically ill patients in relation to: the implementation and management of therapeutic technologies for major organ insufficiency and failure including oxygen therapy, artificial airways and mechanical and non-invasive ventilation; interventional cardiac procedures; pharmacological therapies including vasoactives, fibrinolytics and antiarrhythmics; and principles of specialist critical care practice in clinical risk management and clinical decision making based on best research evidence.

HNN767: CRITICAL CARE NURSING 1

This unit is designed to prepare nurses for specialty critical care practice and covers: assessment and therapeutic management of patients with a variety of complex cardiovascular, respiratory, renal and neurological dysfunctions; advanced electrocardiography concepts; physical, psychosocial and functional care of clinically frail and elderly critically ill and injured patients; paediatric, gynaecology, obstetric and oncology presentations; and advanced treatment modalities including mechanical ventilation and renal replacement therapy.

HNN777: CRITICAL CARE NURSING 2

This unit is designed to prepare nurses for specialty critical care practice of critically ill and injured patients and covers principles, concepts and therapeutic nursing and collaborative management of: sepsis and multi-organ failure; complex cardiac and respiratory conditions; endocrine and abdominal disorders, nutritional support, trauma, assault, burns and toxicology.

HNN750: INQUIRY INTO SPECIALTY NURSING PRACTICE

In this unit, students will be required to explore the current and emerging trends, concepts, knowledge and evidence that provides the policy and practice framework in which the care of critically ill patients takes places specifically in relation to the:

- Transcultural, ethical and psychosocial concepts of brain death, complicated loss and grief and critical incident stress debriefing within specialty areas including the nursing considerations of patient care, family and the multidisciplinary care team.
 - Current and emerging concepts of competency, specialisation and scope of practice; and considerations of nursing roles in outreach teams, managed care and critical care units without walls.
 - Clinical governance, policy and practice development within specialty areas including the contribution of patient and consumer perspectives.
 - Specialty area structure, process and outcome measures including patient and nurse-sensitive indicators for high quality safe care.
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HNN788: ADVANCED CONCEPTS IN SPECIALTY NURSING PRACTICE

This unit covers the role of specialist nurses in managing critically ill patients in relation to:

- The advanced assessment and management of patients requiring complex physiological interventions and support.
 - Emerging trends in evidence-based speciality nursing practice, and knowledge translation.
 - Planning and management of contemporary and emerging workforce issues.
 - Critical examination of the social, political, economic, legal and cultural contexts of specialty practice.
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Case study

Felicity Hoodless

Graduate Diploma of Nursing Practice (Critical Care)

I currently work in a Regional NSW Critical Care Unit as a Critical Care Nurse. I really enjoy my role – no two shifts are the same and each shift has a different challenge. Working in a specialty area is incredibly rewarding. The critical care environment requires critically thinking, highly trained, assertive nurses. We have a high level of autonomy and are a vital part of the team.



I completed the Graduate Certificate in Nursing Practice (Critical Care) in 2014 at Deakin University as a distance education student. Working in a specialty area requires postgraduate qualifications and critical care is no exception. Deakin's course has provided me with a great foundation on which to grow my career. The graduate certificate equipped me with the knowledge and skills I need for the theoretical and practical components of my role. "Knowledge is power" and I think the lecturers and course content have really empowered me as a clinician. The academics at Deakin's School of Nursing and Midwifery are successful in their chosen fields and I found that incredibly inspiring. Their passion for nursing has motivated me to keep achieving and has inspired me to continue with further studies. I am continuing my Master of Nursing Practice studies and am now completing the Graduate Diploma level units.

Deakin University has been a great university for my postgraduate education. The support I have received has been outstanding. Even though I am a distance education student I have felt very connected with the lecturers and fellow students. I have been offered a first class education, endless opportunities and have been really encouraged to achieve my best. The knowledge and skills that I have obtained through the course have increased my job satisfaction and professionally I have grown so much. Postgraduate education is challenging, however Deakin makes the journey enjoyable and rewarding.

Clinical partnerships

Students are required to be employed in an appropriate clinical practice area for a minimum of 24 hours per week with a partnering hospital.

Admission requirements

Applicants should normally possess a Bachelor of Nursing or equivalent approved qualification, and hold current registration as a 'Nurse' (without any imposed restrictions) with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) through the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia or an equivalent registering authority.

Applicants should also have had a minimum of 12 months recent acute care clinical experience.

Apply

Refer to deakin.edu.au/courses/find-a-course/nursing-and-midwifery/critical-care-nursing

Contact us

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[deakin.edu.au/course/
master-nursing-practice](https://deakin.edu.au/course/master-nursing-practice)

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