

Master of Nursing Practice – Intensive Care

Cloud Campus (online)

Course outcomes

The Master of Nursing Practice – Intensive Care 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 – Intensive 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 – INTENSIVE 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 | HNN764 Intensive Care Nursing 1 |
| | | HNN752 Core Principles of Care for the Critically Ill Patient | HNN774 Intensive 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 Masters 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.

HNN764: INTENSIVE CARE NURSING 1

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

HNN774: INTENSIVE CARE NURSING 2

This unit is designed to prepare nurses for specialty intensive 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 medical and surgical cardiac and respiratory conditions; endocrine and hepatic disorders, nutritional support, 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 place 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.
-

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 specialty 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.
-

Case study

Elizabeth Kay

Graduate Diploma of Nursing Practice (Intensive Care)

I currently work at Knox Private Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit as a Critical Care Registered Nurse. I love looking after complex ICU patients and providing 1 to 1 care for my patients and their families. Our patients have a high acuity and present with a wide range of health problems. The dynamic, constantly changing environment requires advanced nursing assessment and management skills, including predicting patients' requirements.



I completed my ICU Post Graduate Certificate at Deakin in 2013. I thoroughly enjoyed my studies and decided to continue and complete my Graduate Diploma in 2014. I found the teaching staff at Deakin excellent. I always felt supported and given plenty of time and help when I required it. My lecturers were very inspiring and insightful, knowledgeable and experienced, and helped me to look at and approach certain situations differently. Now I am completing my Masters.

Undertaking the Graduate Certificate of Nursing Practice (Intensive Care) opened my eyes to the fundamental components of critical care nursing and utilising evidenced-based practice to ensure best patient outcomes. Completing the Graduate Diploma taught me how to be adaptable and resourceful in a health sector which is continuously upgrading and changing. I have developed knowledge and skills essential for patient safety and quality care, like effective management and communication, ways to initiate change whilst being innovative, and understanding Government health legislation and priorities. These courses have helped me develop the skill set needed to be an effective bedside critical care nurse as well as an effective leader and manager.

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 be registered as a Registered Nurse 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/intensive-care-nursing

Contact us

Postgraduate Enrolment Officer:
postgrad-nurs@deakin.edu.au
03 9244 6102

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

Published by Deakin University in April 2017. While the information published in this guide was accurate at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course offerings and other information published here. For the most up-to-date course information please view our website at deakin.edu.au

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B



CELEBRATING
30
YEARS 1987-2017

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING
AND MIDWIFERY