

Graduate Diploma of Midwifery

Melbourne Burwood | Cloud Campus (online)

Course outcomes

The Graduate Diploma of Midwifery is designed to prepare graduates for contemporary professional practice as a midwife, following successful course completion and application to AHPRA for registration. Students develop the ability to use evidence in their practice and achieve the core competencies expected of registered midwives in a variety of contexts.

Graduates will demonstrate critical thinking, analysis, reflective practice, evaluation and problem solving skills that will make them highly employable within the midwifery discipline.

Course delivery

The units of the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery are delivered as a combination of campus based classes and seminars, and Cloud (online) forums and classes. There are also independent learning modules designed to support students while they undertake clinical placements within maternity service facilities. In using blended learning approaches in the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery, students have face-to-face contact with academics during the two week intensive program conducted at Melbourne Burwood Campus in mid-February and on nominated 'study days' conducted throughout each of the trimesters over the 18 months of the course. During the first and second trimesters,

study days are held on Thursdays. During the final trimester of the course, the study days are held on Fridays. Video conference arrangements are available to those students residing outside of the metropolitan area.

Use of the online resource Blackboard Collaborate facilitates the delivery of theory and group discussion using real time (students need access to a personal computer, headphones and a microphone). In the event students are unable to participate in a Blackboard Collaborate, sessions are recorded so that the students can access them. In addition, students have access to online resources to further support their studies. The use of online technologies means that students are required to have access to a computer and internet.

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



GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF MIDWIFERY

Course structure

Course code: H676

Offered at: Melbourne Burwood Campus and Cloud Campus

Duration: 1.5 years in a combination of full-time and part-time study

Intake: March (Trimester 1)

Students will enrol in the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery (H676), an 8 credit point course run over three trimesters of study (1.5 years) through a combination of full-time and part-time study. The course consists of five core units (equivalent to 6 credit points conducted via Campus and Cloud learning) and two elective unit options (equivalent to 2 credit points conducted via Cloud learning).

Year	Credit points and clinical placements	Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 x credit points of core specialty study. 1 x credit point elective unit. Supervised part-time employment or unpaid placements are to be completed in partnership with an appropriate maternity service. 	Core units	
		HNM701 The Woman During Pregnancy, Labour and Birth (2 credit points)	HNM703 Contexts of Midwifery Practice (1 credit point)
		HNM702 The Woman and Newborn Infant (1 credit point)	HNM704 Clinical Challenges in Maternity Care (1 credit point)
		Elective units	
		NA	1 x elective unit
		Clinical placement	
276 hours Negotiate and commence minimum of 10 continuity of care experiences (including attending 4 x antenatal visits, 2 x postnatal visits and, for majority of women, the labour and birth.	144 hours Continuity of care experiences continued.		

Year	Credit points and clinical placements	Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x credit point of core specialty study. Students must complete 1 x additional elective unit to complete 8 x credit points of study for the Graduate Diploma. Supervised part-time employment or unpaid placements are to be completed in partnership with an appropriate maternity service. 	Core units	
		HNM705 Clinical Challenges in Infant Care (1 credit point)	NA
		1 x elective unit	NA
		Elective units	
		NA	1 x elective unit
		Clinical placement	
120 hours The successful completion of a minimum of 10 x continuity of care experiences.	NA		

Note: If you choose to undertake your first elective unit in Trimester 2 your workload will be considered full-time for Year 1 (3 credit points per trimester). Alternatively you can choose to undertake both elective units in Trimester 1 of Year 2. This means the academic workload in Trimester 1 of Year 1 will be full-time, Trimester 2 of Year 1 it will be part-time and in Trimester 1 of Year 2 it will be full-time.

Core unit outlines

HNM701: THE WOMAN DURING PREGNANCY, LABOUR AND BIRTH

In this unit emphasis is placed upon midwifery health assessments incorporating physical, emotional and mental health of the woman and that of the fetus and soon after birth health assessment of the new mother and her infant. The midwife's responsibilities as a primary health care provider including a referral and collaboration role with other health care professionals are presented, encompassing health promotion and education. Woman-centred care is promoted to support individualised care incorporating socio-cultural diversity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and women from other cultural groups; and supporting the needs of the community related to maternity services.

HNM702: THE WOMAN AND NEWBORN INFANT

This unit examines the physiology of the puerperium and the healthy newborn infant immediately following birth; incorporates midwifery care of the women after birth including family planning, sexuality and relationships. It also covers newborn infant behaviour, nutritional needs and breastfeeding; neonatal screening tests, immunisation; and community resources available for the woman and her infant. Emphasis is placed upon woman-centred care, the midwife's responsibilities as a primary health provider including a referral role to other health professionals; health promotion and education.

HNM703: CONTEXTS OF MIDWIFERY PRACTICE

This unit reviews definitions of the midwife, drawing on historical, philosophical, art, scientific and cultural elements. Midwifery practice is examined according to professional organisations, e.g. the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC), Australian College of Midwives (ACM), and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) through the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). The scope of midwifery practice, competencies, professional responsibilities of a midwife (e.g. primary care, referral role and education, models of care, and maternity services available to childbearing women) are presented. Womens' health issues across the lifespan are explored.

HNM704: CLINICAL CHALLENGES IN MATERNITY CARE

This unit reviews the pathophysiology related to complex health issues of the woman and her fetus during pregnancy, or following birth; the midwife's referral role to other health professionals. It also encompasses ethical, legal issues, loss and grief and community resources.

HNM705: CLINICAL CHALLENGES IN INFANT CARE

This unit reviews the pathophysiology related to health concerns of the sick, pre-term and small gestational age infant, and the appropriate midwifery care including biophysical assessment and procedures to evaluate health and well-being. Midwifery care extends to parents and families, including a referral role to other health professionals, community resources with reference to ethical, legal issues, loss and grief.

Elective units

Elective units available through the School of Nursing and Midwifery can be viewed at:

deakin.edu.au/course/graduate-diploma-midwifery

Alternatively, students may select level 7 x elective units from other schools within the Faculty of Health. For example HSN702 Lifespan Nutrition which covers nutritional issues relevant to the stages of pregnancy, lactation, foetal development, infancy, childhood and ageing.

Credit for Prior Learning

If you have successfully completed postgraduate level study within the last 10 years you may be eligible for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) for the 2 x 1 credit point elective units required within the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery.

Case study

Catherine Trinnick

Graduate Diploma of Midwifery

I graduated from Deakin University's Bachelor of Nursing in 2005. I have always wanted to be a midwife so I recently completed the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery at Deakin. The flexibility of course delivery modes was a significant factor in choosing Deakin because I live in a small rural town over 300 kilometres from Melbourne. This aspect of Deakin's course really suited my needs. I also really valued the support I received from the teaching staff who were extremely helpful in enabling me to meet the course requirements.

I am currently employed as a graduate midwife in a midwifery group practice at Portland District Health. I love the variety of working in a group practice and really enjoy the relationships that I am able to develop with women throughout their pregnancy, labour and birth, and postnatal experience.

Clinical experience

The Graduate Diploma of Midwifery has been designed to incorporate clinical learning opportunities through either supervised part-time employment arrangements or unpaid placement arrangements within a variety of maternity service settings. Students are required to undertake placements in maternity services of a collaborating hospital, to support their clinical learning environment and to meet both the course and registration requirements as a 'Midwife' through AHPRA of the NMBA.

There are clinical hours that must be completed independently of the supervised employment component. Compulsory clinical hurdles form part of the assessment and must be passed in order to gain an overall pass in the unit. Recognition of the importance of clinical assessments is calculated in the overall student workload. Failure of a compulsory practicum in a unit will normally lead to exclusion from the course.



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 must be successful in obtaining a clinical placement arrangement in maternity care at a collaborating health service for course entry.

Apply

Refer to deakin.edu.au/course/graduate-diploma-midwifery

Contact us

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deakin.edu.au/nursing-midwifery

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