



Contemporary Midwifery Practice

The Faculty of Health at Deakin University is a leader in providing education for people working or aiming to work, in health and human services. We collaborate with major employer and professional groups, ensuring that our programs are at the cutting edge of current research and practice.

The Professional Development Unit (PDU) at Deakin University offers high quality educational learning packages. These learning packages provide midwives with the opportunity to update their professional skills, support their current practice, take another career direction or seek an alternative entry pathway into higher education.

Each learning package is equivalent to 0.5 credit point, and multiples of 1 point may attract advanced standing into postgraduate studies in midwifery. Learning packages are delivered via distance education over a 10 week period. Students are able to work at their own pace within this timeframe. Learning packages are offered in Trimesters 1, 2 and 3 (numbers permitting).

There are three (3) learning packages available for the student to gain an understanding of the care of childbearing women and their families during pregnancy and birth. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on their experiences and to integrate theoretical concepts while developing skills for application in practice.

These learning packages are only available to registered midwives, or nurses enrolled in postgraduate studies in Midwifery.

PDU321 Examination of the newborn

PDU322 Postnatal Care in the community

PDU327 Midwives and Caseload Practice

Learning package one: Examination of the newborn

The aim of this learning package is to prepare practitioners to perform a comprehensive and systematic examination of the healthy, term, newborn infant. It will enable midwives to undertake the initial detailed examination of the neonate within the first 24 hours of life, the discharge examination prior to going home or the final examination before discharge from domiciliary services. It is expected that practitioners abide by policies and procedures in place in the agencies in which they work.

The contents of this learning package includes:

- foetal development
- physical assessment of the newborn
- gestational age assessment
- maternal health and birth experience
- newborn behaviours and parent interaction
- parent education

Learning package two: Postnatal care in the community

The aim of this learning package is to facilitate midwifery practice at an advanced level, so that women and their families benefit from appropriate and effective maternity services provided by midwives during the immediate days following childbirth.

The contents of this learning package includes:

- context of midwifery in the community
- the mother's environment
- maternal adaptation to parenting and discharge planning
- the mother
- postnatal health concerns of the mother
- health promotion for the mother and family

Assessment: One Written Assignment (2500 words) = 100% for each package.

Learning package three: Midwives and Caseload Practice

This learning package aims to guide midwifery students and midwives in their transition to caseload midwifery practice of woman-centred primary care; the named midwife being the leading health care provider responsible for professional decisions in attendance at birth in the hospital, or in the woman's home.

The content of this learning package includes:

- The role of the midwife primary carer
- Ensuring safety and quality in midwife-led primary care
- Looking at the evidence
- Midwives attending home births
- Practice experience
- Collaboration, consultation and referral responsibilities
- Practical matters such as legislative changes, mentors, equipment, record maintenance

Assessment: A minor assignment (1000 words) = 40%

A major assignment (1500 words) = 60%

Admission requirements

Registered nurses undertaking postgraduate midwifery studies and registered midwives.

Fees, requirements and refunds

PLEASE NOTE: Deakin University's ABN is listed on the enrolment form to act as a tax invoice. The Employer sponsored payment of fees **MUST** accompany the enrolment form to guarantee enrolment in the desired Trimester. No exceptions.

Please refer to the PDU website for information on refund policies: deakin.edu.au/health/pdu

Enquiries and applications

Applications close four weeks prior to the start of each Trimester. Contact the Professional Development Unit for specific dates. For information and an application form, please go to :

deakin.edu.au/health/pdu/enrolment.php

While the above information was correct at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course and unit offerings.

June 2014