Nursing

About this area of study

Nursing is one of the most diverse professions. While many nurses work in hospitals, others work in a range of settings. Home care nurses visit people in their homes. Occupational health nurses help maintain safe and healthy work environments, while community health nurses work with all members of the community promoting good health practices, especially to high-risk groups. Outpost nurses may provide the only health care available in remote areas and military nurses provide care for the armed forces.

In addition, some nurses may join the research field, investigating ways of improving health care for different types of patients. Many nurses become specialists in particular areas of care, such as oncology (care of patients with cancer) or obstetrics (care of pregnant women). Nurses also play a key role in the administration of health care, managing nursing services in hospitals and community health centres.

Key skills that Nursing graduates demonstrate include

- good written and oral communication skills
- clinical reasoning abilities
- problem-solving skills
- excellent interpersonal skills
- good presentation skills
- leadership and team building
- persistence, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity

Training and registration

In order to become a registered nurse (RN), it is necessary to undergo proper training and pass the necessary exams. There are various nursing training programs, ranging in level from diploma to masters. To advance in the field of nursing, more advanced degrees may be required.

Nurses are registered in two divisions:

- Division 1: also known as Nurse-Registered, includes graduates from accredited university courses as well as midwives, nurse practitioners by endorsement and maternal, child health and psychiatric nurses.
- Division 2: also known as Nurse-Enrolled, includes graduates from accredited courses in the VET sector.

Following graduation from university, RNs (Registered Nurses) are encouraged to complete a Graduate Nurse Year to consolidate their knowledge, skills and practice. The graduates are employed by a particular hospital for 1 year and are supported whilst working in general and/or

specialist areas as novice nurses. Rotations that may be offered include medical/surgical wards, operating theatre, paediatrics, mental health, community services, Intensive Care, emergency etc.

Deakin University Nursing graduates are equipped to pursue careers as registered nurses in a range of specialist areas

- Acute care/sub-acute care nursing
- Nursing administration
- Aged care nursing
- Emergency nurse
- Community health nurse
- Family nursing
- Maternal and child health nurse
- School nurse
- Mental health nursing
- Paediatric nurse
- Nursing policy
- Nursing professional bodies
- Nursing research
- Rehabilitation

Courses offered by Deakin University

- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology)
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Public Health and Health Promotion

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

- Health development and policy
- Health promotion and education
- Mental health nursing
- Human resources
- Midwifery
- Nursing/public health policy

- Clinical nurse education

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Nurses can work in public and private hospitals; community health clinics; physician and dentist surgeries; youth and women's shelters; welfare centres; nursing homes; private homes; industrial and corporate sites; schools; universities and research institutions.

The Alfred Hospital www.alfred.org.au

Barwon Health www.barwonhealth.org.au

Cabrini Health www.cabrini.com.au

Eastern Health www.easternhealth.org.au

Epworth Hospital www.epworth.org.au

Southern Health www.southernhealth.org.au

Northern Health www.nh.org.au

Uniting Care www.unitingcare.org.au

SouthWest Health Care www.swarh.com.au

Nurse Specialists www.nursespecialists.com.au

Royal Flying Doctor Service www.flyingdoctor.org.au

Royal District Nursing Service www.rdns.com.au

For specific employment opportunities

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Nursing Courses and Allied Health www.ncah.com.au

Health and community jobs www.hacjobs.com.au

Victorian Government Health Jobs www.health.vic.gov.au/jobs

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Professional associations

Australian Nursing Federation www.anfvic.asn.au

Royal College of Nursing Australia www.rcna.org.au

Australian Practising Nurses Association www.apna.asn.au

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Incorporated www.anmc.org.au

Nurses Board of Victoria www.nbv.org.au