

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (260JA.2)

Please note these are the 2021 details for this course

Domestic students

Selection rank	PG
Delivery mode	Online
Location	Bruce, Canberra
Duration	1.0 years
Faculty	Faculty of Health
Discipline	Discipline of Nursing
UAC code	880767
English language requirements	An IELTS Academic score of 6.5 overall, with no band score below 6.0 (or equivalent).

[View IELTS equivalences](#)

International students

Academic entry requirements	To study at UC, you'll need to meet our academic entry requirements and any admission requirements specific to your course. Please read your course admission requirements below. To find out whether you meet UC's academic entry requirements, visit our academic entry requirements page.
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[View UC's academic entry requirements](#)

Delivery mode	
Location	
Duration	1.0 years
Faculty	Faculty of Health
Discipline	Discipline of Nursing
CRICOS code	
English language requirements	An IELTS Academic score of 6.5 overall, with no band score below 6.0 (or equivalent). View IELTS equivalences

About this course

Nurse your career forward

If you're already a qualified and registered nurse keen to hone your skills in Clinical Leadership, Complex Care, Critical Care or Mental Health, then the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing is the natural stepping stone for career progression.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing offers you the chance to get advanced specialised healthcare training while gaining additional qualifications and experience in clinical leadership and management.

Specific areas of health include; Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Critical Care Unit (CCU), Trauma Management (Critical Care), Mental Health, or Chronic Illness and Disease Management (Complex Care).

Take control of your career and sign up for the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing course at UC today.

This is your chance to improve your skills and become part of a highly specialised team of healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the professional standards of nursing around the world.

Study a Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing at UC and you will:

- be able to choose from four clinical specialties: Clinical Leadership, Complex Care, Critical Care or Mental Health
- advance your clinical expertise and evidence-based skill set
- critically examine significant social, legal, ethical, policy, and practical issues facing nurses in contemporary practice.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL)

The concept of WIL is a vital component of the Postgraduate Diploma of Nursing, and throughout the course you will be trained and mentored by UC's experienced educators; many of whom hold leadership positions in the nursing profession. As part of this course, you'll also be invited to participate in industry-related seminars, workshops, and conferences where you'll be exposed to cutting-edge research and innovative healthcare solutions.

Career opportunities

A UC Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing is a well-respected and recognised qualification that opens many opportunities for career progression. This is a perfect solution for those looking for extended practice experience and higher qualifications in the following areas:

- nurse specialist
- research nurse
- nurse educator
- nurse administrator
- clinical nurse specialist
- nurse unit manager
- mental health nurse
- ICU nurse
- ED nurse
- CCU nurse
- oncology nurse

Further postgraduate study at UC is also available as an option, as completion of this course can lead directly into the Master of Nursing and Master of Nursing (Research), courses.

Course-specific information

Applicants need to meet all three criteria:

- hold a Bachelor of Nursing degree
- be registered or eligible to register as a Registered Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA), or equivalent overseas regulatory body
- already employed in a health setting relevant to the nursing stream chosen.

Assumed knowledge: capacity to produce high-quality scholarly papers in English.

Please note: completion of this course does NOT lead to registration as a Registered Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

Professional accreditation

The Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Mental Health) is currently the minimum academic requirement for credentialing with the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) as a Mental Health Nurse (MHN).

Admission requirements

Applicants need to meet all three criteria:

- A) hold a Bachelor of Nursing
- B) be registered, or be eligible to register, as a Registered Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA), or equivalent overseas regulatory body
- C) be employed in a relevant health setting*

*The health setting must be relevant to the nursing stream chosen.

Admission to this course is competitive. Applications will be assessed on the basis of academic merit and the number of available places.

Assumed knowledge

Capacity to produce high-quality scholarly papers in the English language.

Periods course is open for new admissions

This course is not open for new admissions.

Credit arrangements

There are currently no formal credit transfer arrangements for entry to this course. Any previous study or work experience will only be considered as part of the application process in accordance with current [course rules](#) and [university policy](#).

Course requirements

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (260JA) | 24 credit points

Required - Must pass 12 credit points as follows

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG (9594) | 3 credit points – Level P

Leadership and Management in Healthcare PG (9661) | 3 credit points – Level P

Advanced Nursing Practice: Practice-Based Learning PG (9662) | 3 credit points – Level P

Advanced Nursing Practice: Theoretical Foundations PG (9663) | 3 credit points – Level P

Award Options - Must select 1 of the following

Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Clinical Leadership - 12 credit points as follows

Required Units - Must pass 6 credit points as follows

Education and Learning in Clinical Contexts PG (9660) | 3 credit points – Level P

Clinical Governance in Healthcare PG (9664) | 3 credit points – Level P

Restricted Choice - Must pass 6 credit points from the following

- Or other unit at PG level as approved by the Postgraduate Coordinator

Pathophysiology of Critical Illness PG (7212) | 3 credit points – Level P

Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Change and Intervention PG (7492) | 3 credit points – Level P

Clinical Supervision in Health Care Practice PG (7493) | 3 credit points – Level P

Counselling Skills for Health Care Practitioners PG (7494) | 3 credit points – Level P

Health Specialty Topic 1 PG (8566) | 3 credit points – Level P

Perinatal Mental Health PG (8568) | 3 credit points – Level P

Chronic and Complex Care PG (8926) | 3 credit points – Level P

Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Complex Care - 12 credit points as follows

Required - Must pass 9 credit points as follows

Chronic and Complex Care PG (8926) | 3 credit points – Level P

Education and Learning in Clinical Contexts PG (9660) | 3 credit points – Level P

Clinical Governance in Healthcare PG (9664) | 3 credit points – Level P

Restricted Choice - Must pass 3 credit points from the following

- Or other unit at PG level as approved by the Postgraduate Coordinator

Pathophysiology of Critical Illness PG (7212) | 3 credit points – Level P

Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Change and Intervention PG (7492) | 3 credit points – Level P

Clinical Supervision in Health Care Practice PG (7493) | 3 credit points – Level P

Counselling Skills for Health Care Practitioners PG (7494) | 3 credit points – Level P

Health Specialty Topic 1 PG (8566) | 3 credit points – Level P

Perinatal Mental Health PG (8568) | 3 credit points – Level P

- The Complex Care stream has been suspended from Semester 1 2020 until further notice. Students commencing from 2020 onwards will not be able to undertake these units.

Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Critical Care - 12 credit points as follows

Required - Must pass 9 credit points as follows

Pathophysiology of Critical Illness PG (7212) | 3 credit points – Level P

Critical Care Essentials PG (9293) | 6 credit points – Level P

Critical Care Advanced Practice PG (9665) | 3 credit points – Level P

Restricted Choice - Must pass 3 credit points from the following

- Or other unit at PG level as approved by the Postgraduate Coordinator

Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Change and Intervention PG (7492) | 3 credit points – Level P

Counselling Skills for Health Care Practitioners PG (7494) | 3 credit points – Level P

Health Specialty Topic 1 PG (8566) | 3 credit points – Level P

Perinatal Mental Health PG (8568) | 3 credit points – Level P

Chronic and Complex Care PG (8926) | 3 credit points – Level P

Education and Learning in Clinical Contexts PG (9660) | 3 credit points – Level P

Clinical Governance in Healthcare PG (9664) | 3 credit points – Level P

- The Critical Care stream has been suspended from Semester 1 2020 until further notice. Students commencing from 2020 onwards will not be able to undertake these units.

Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Mental Health - 12 credit points as follows

Required - Must pass 6 credit points from the following

Clinical Supervision in Health Care Practice PG (7493) | 3 credit points – Level P

Mental Health Assessment and Intervention PG (8565) | 3 credit points – Level P

Restricted Choice - 6 credit points as follows

Part B - Must pass 3 credit points from the following

Counselling Applications PG 1 (7746) | 3 credit points – Level P

Health Specialty Topic 1 PG (8566) | 3 credit points – Level P

Perinatal Mental Health PG (8568) | 3 credit points – Level P

Chronic and Complex Care PG (8926) | 3 credit points – Level P

Education and Learning in Clinical Contexts PG (9660) | 3 credit points – Level P

Clinical Governance in Healthcare PG (9664) | 3 credit points – Level P

- Or other unit at PG level as approved by the Postgraduate Coordinator

Part A - Must pass 3 credit points from the following

Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Change and Intervention PG (7492) | 3 credit points – Level P

Counselling Skills for Health Care Practitioners PG (7494) | 3 credit points – Level P

- Unit 7494 has been replaced by unit 7492. Students commencing this course in S2 2020 must pass unit 7492 Alcohol & Other Drug Use: Change & Intervention PG.

In addition to course requirements, in order to successfully complete your course you must meet the inherent requirements. Please refer to the [inherent requirements statement](#) applicable to your course

Typical study pattern

UC - Canberra, Bruce

Clinical Leadership, Standard Full Time, Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Semester 1

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Practice-Based Learning PG \(9662\)](#)

Restricted Choice unit

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Theoretical Foundations PG \(9663\)](#)

[Clinical Governance in Healthcare PG \(9664\)](#)

Semester 2

Restricted Choice unit

[Education and Learning in Clinical Contexts PG \(9660\)](#)

[Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG \(9594\)](#)

[Leadership and Management in Healthcare PG \(9661\)](#)

Complex Care, Standard Full Time, Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Semester 1

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Practice-Based Learning PG \(9662\)](#)

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Theoretical Foundations PG \(9663\)](#)

[Chronic and Complex Care PG \(8926\)](#)

[Clinical Governance in Healthcare PG \(9664\)](#)

Semester 2

[Education and Learning in Clinical Contexts PG \(9660\)](#)

[Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG \(9594\)](#)

[Leadership and Management in Healthcare PG \(9661\)](#)

Restricted Choice unit

Critical Care, Standard Full Time, Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Semester 1

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Practice-Based Learning PG \(9662\)](#)

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Theoretical Foundations PG \(9663\)](#)

[Critical Care Essentials PG \(9293\)](#)

Semester 2

[Critical Care Advanced Practice PG \(9665\)](#)

[Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG \(9594\)](#)

[Leadership and Management in Healthcare PG \(9661\)](#)

[Pathophysiology of Critical Illness PG \(7212\)](#)

Mental Health, Standard Full Time, Semester 1 Commencing (2020 or earlier)

Year 1

Semester 1

Restricted Choice unit

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Practice-Based Learning PG \(9662\)](#)

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Theoretical Foundations PG \(9663\)](#)

[Mental Health Assessment and Intervention PG \(8565\)](#)

Semester 2

[Clinical Supervision in Health Care Practice PG \(7493\)](#)

[Counselling Skills for Health Care Practitioners PG \(7494\)](#)

[Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG \(9594\)](#)

[Leadership and Management in Healthcare PG \(9661\)](#)

Mental Health, Standard Full Time, Semester 1 Commencing (from 2021)

Year 1

Semester 1

Restricted Choice unit

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Practice-Based Learning PG \(9662\)](#)

[Advanced Nursing Practice: Theoretical Foundations PG \(9663\)](#)

[Mental Health Assessment and Intervention PG \(8565\)](#)

Semester 2

[Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Change and Intervention PG \(7492\)](#)

[Clinical Supervision in Health Care Practice PG \(7493\)](#)

[Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG \(9594\)](#)

[Leadership and Management in Healthcare PG \(9661\)](#)

Course information

Course duration

Standard duration two semesters full-time or equivalent. Maximum eight semesters.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes	Related graduate attributes
3. Discuss the function and responsibilities of Registered Nurses practising at an advanced level, with particular regard to professional and ethical standards, clinical supervision, mentoring, education, policy development, reflective practice; and on-going professional and practice development.	<p>Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Using a range of high level communication skills (written, spoken, behavioural), promote and advance the function and responsibilities of health professionals as accountable, reflective and supportive members of a multidisciplinary team2. Demonstrate discernment of information about the function and responsibilities of health professionals, including the management of that information, using a range of tools and evolving technologies, assessed through interactions with course facilitators, other students, and a range of assessment strategies.

Problem Solving

1. Identify and discuss the main issues related to the function and responsibilities of health professionals across the multidisciplinary team, applying problem-solving processes in novel situations to formulate and apply solutions
2. Apply appropriate problem solving processes, arguments, critical and creative thinking to the issues identified; and Implement and evaluate strategies for the resolution of these issues.

Analysis and inquiry

1. Systematically collect, analyse, synthesise and evaluate information related to the function and responsibilities of health professionals who practise at advanced levels, with particular regard to professional and ethical standards, clinical supervision, mentoring, education, policy development, reflective practice; and on-going professional and practice development.

Working independently and with others

1. Develop an awareness of the function and responsibilities of all health professionals in the multidisciplinary team, with particular regard to professional and ethical standards, clinical supervision, mentoring, education, policy development, reflective practice, and on-going professional and practice development
2. Demonstrate the capacity to discuss the function and responsibilities of health professional when delivering high quality, safe, and evidence-based healthcare as well as the function and responsibility of other members of the multidisciplinary team
3. Respect the rights of consumers (patients, residents, clients), families or carers, significant others, and also colleagues, irrespective of cultural, gender or other diversity
4. Plan their own work, be self-directed, and use interpersonal skills and attitudes to work collaboratively and reflectively.

Professionalism and social responsibility

1. Demonstrate the capacity and intention to use professional knowledge and skills ethically and responsibly for the benefit of others and the environment, while at the same time recognising the potential for power imbalances in relationships in health settings;
2. Demonstrate accountability by responding appropriately to the information gathered and analysed as part of learning.

1. Critically appraise knowledge related to the changing identity, roles and professional profiles of Registered Nurses as autonomous practitioners, and key members of collaborative multidisciplinary health teams in contemporary, culturally diverse health contexts.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing in Clinical Leadership:
Critically appraise the changing identity, roles and professional profiles of Registered Nurses as leaders as well as autonomous practitioners working as part of collaborative multidisciplinary health teams in contemporary, culturally diverse health contexts.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Complex Care):
Critically appraise the changing identity, roles and professional profiles of Registered Nurses as autonomous practitioners and key members of collaborative multidisciplinary health teams who deliver care to people with complex needs in contemporary, culturally diverse health contexts.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Critical Care Nursing):
Critically appraise the changing identity, roles and professional profiles of Registered Nurses as autonomous practitioners and key members of collaborative multidisciplinary health teams in contemporary, culturally diverse critical care settings.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Mental Health):
Critically appraise the changing identity, roles and professional profiles of Registered Nurses as autonomous practitioners and key members of collaborative

Communication

1. Apply theories and philosophies, professional standards, research evidence, and also the experiences of self and others, to promote professional identities, roles and profiles by using a range of high level communication skills (written, spoken, behavioural)
2. Demonstrate discernment of information, its management, and the effective use of a range of communication tools and evolving technologies, assessed through interactions with course facilitators, other students, colleagues, and context appropriate assessment strategies.

Analysis and inquiry

1. Systematically collect, analyse and synthesise information related to identity, roles, and professional profiles of health professionals.

Problem solving

1. Identify and discuss the main issues related to the identity, roles and professional profiles of health professionals as autonomous practitioners and key members of collaborative, multidisciplinary health teams in contemporary, culturally diverse health contexts
2. Apply appropriate problem solving processes and arguments, as well as critical and creative thinking to the issues identified
3. Implement and appraise the strategies developed to resolve these issues.

Professionalism and social responsibility

1. Recognise and discuss the changing identity, roles and professional

multidisciplinary health teams in contemporary, culturally diverse mental health settings.

profiles of health professionals as autonomous members of collaborative multidisciplinary health teams in contemporary, culturally diverse health contexts

2. Integrate new knowledge into professional practice, with a focus on professionalism and social responsibilities in culturally diverse settings.

2. Synthesise and apply the knowledge necessary to plan, deliver and evaluate high quality, safe, and evidence-based nursing care at an advanced level in the selected area of practice.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing in Clinical Leadership:
Synthesise and apply the knowledge necessary to lead others to deliver and evaluate high quality, safe, and evidence-based nursing care at an advanced level in a range of health care settings.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Complex Care):
Synthesise and apply the knowledge necessary to deliver and evaluate high quality, safe, and evidence-based nursing care at an advanced level to people with complex health needs in a range of health settings.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Critical Care Nursing):
Synthesise and apply the knowledge necessary to deliver and evaluate high quality, safe, and evidence-based nursing care at an advanced level in a critical care setting; and adapt this knowledge to other settings as required.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Mental Health):
Synthesise and apply the knowledge necessary to deliver and evaluate high quality, safe, and evidence-based nursing care at an advanced level in a mental health setting, and adapt this knowledge to other settings as required.

Analysis and inquiry

1. Systematically collect, analyse, synthesise and assess information related to the delivery and evaluation of advanced level, high quality, safe, and evidence-based healthcare.

Problem solving

1. Identify and discuss the main issues related to the delivery and evaluation of advanced level, high quality, safe, and evidence-based healthcare

2. Apply appropriate problem solving processes, arguments, critical and creative thinking to the issues identified

3. Implement and evaluate the strategies developed to resolve these issues.

Working independently and with others

1. Demonstrate the capacity to deliver and evaluate high quality, safe, and evidence-based healthcare as part of a team; and differentiate the different roles and responsibilities of the collaborative team in relation to practice

2. Respect the rights of consumers (patients, residents or clients), families or carers, significant others, and also colleagues, irrespective of cultural, gender or other diversity.

Professionalism and social responsibility

1. Recognise and discuss the place of professionalism and social responsibility in the delivery and evaluation of advanced level, high quality, safe, and evidence-based healthcare

2. Synthesise new knowledge into practice, with a focus on professionalism and social responsibilities when delivering and evaluating high quality, safe and evidence-based healthcare.

Awards

Award	Official abbreviation
Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Mental Health	GradDipNurs MntHlth
Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Critical Care	GradDipNurs CritCare
Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Clinical Leadership	GradDipNurs ClinLeadership
Graduate Diploma in Nursing in Complex Care	GradDipNurs ComplexCare

Alternative exits

Upon completion of 12 credit points, students may exit from this course with one of the following awards:

- Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Leadership),
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Complex Care,)
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Critical Care), or
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Mental Health)

The Postgraduate Diploma course is subsumable into the Master of Nursing Course

Enquiries

Student category	Contact details
Prospective Students	Please email study@canberra.edu.au or telephone 1800 UNI CAN (1800 864 226)
Current and Commencing Students	Email student.centre@canberra.edu.au

Download your course guide



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UC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.