

Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing

The Postgraduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing through Curtin University is a 12-month, part time course consisting of 2-theory units and 2-practical units encompassing the completion of a practical portfolio. There is one intake per year commencing in February. This opportunity is open to all RNs (junior or senior) working in all areas within SCGH and OPH.

The Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing is designed to provide:

- advanced theoretical foundations of nursing science, together with clinical knowledge and skills,
- the development of clinical leadership, promotion and integration of evidence-based nursing practice to foster graduate development consistent with the profile of the nurse in acute care service delivery,
- the acute care nurse with further clinical skills and an opportunity to extend career options.

Entry requirements

- Bachelor's degree in nursing
- Minimum 12-months experience
- AHPRA RN registration
- Concurrently employed in SCGOPHCG/NMHS and working minimum 8 hours week

Enrolment process

- Interested participants (students) will be required to submit an expression of interest to complete the course through the Centre of Nursing Education (CNE). This is done by completing the 'Request to Undertake Postgraduate Studies' form which requires a signature from the ward/unit/department manager in support of the participant undertaking the study.
- Once completed, the participant will be asked to enrol into all four units of the Postgraduate certificate through the Curtin University site. Links to the enrolment page and to the CNMO scholarship page will be sent through by the site course facilitator to help the application process.

Course Structure

Two units are completed per semester – one theory/one practical. Theory units are all online through the Curtin Blackboard platform.

Theory units – NURS5055 – Acute Care Nursing Science 1 NURS5056 – Acute Care Nursing Science 2

- The theory units are self-directed – there is no requirement to have to go on to campus. There will be online tutorials offered through Curtin University and several modules to work through with the relevant resources. The student will have full access to the Curtin library resources and other online platforms.

- There will be assignments that need to be completed and an exam which will be delivered online. The format of everything will be around problem-based learning (case studies, root cause analysis, guideline review). There will be some individual and some group work requirements.

**Practical units: NURS5053 Specialty Clinical Practice 1 (workplace)
NURS5054 Specialty Clinical Practice 2 (workplace)**

- The practical units are completed within the students own clinical area – there is no requirement to move areas or be seconded out. It is important to note that the practical component of the course is completed in the students own working hours unless otherwise negotiated with their manager. The specialty content will be according to the student’s area of work – they will bring their specialty to the course and the work will be contextualised accordingly, rather than have to work with content outside of their specialty. If the student happens to move their workplace during the year, this will not affect their studies – everything continues – they may just have to find a new mentor to continue (if their current mentor is unable).

The practical portfolio

- The practical units involve the completion of a portfolio using the online platform Pebblepad. The student will be required to work to certain milestones and achieve set competencies within those milestones. The expectation is that this is completed during the students normal working hours, and therefore will not affect their normal income. This highlights the importance of gaining the managers approval to undertake the study to ensure the right support is provided during this time.
- The student will require a **Mentor** – someone more senior to them who is able to provide guidance and support through the year. They need to be willing to help the student progress through the portfolio and be able to sign of the requirements within the milestones. Mentors will be provided with training from Curtin University to ensure they are familiar with the content of the course and understand their role and commitment of being a mentor.

For further information contact:

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