Doctor of Health Science (HL90)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 037680K
Course duration (full-time): 3 Years
Course duration (part-time): 6 Years
Domestic fees (indicative): Aust citizens or PRs will be awarded an RTS/RTA place or a QUT sponsorship for tuition fees. If you exceed the max time, you will be charged - 2010: $11,750 per semester (indicative)
International Fees (indicative): 2010: $11,750 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February and July
International Entry: February and July
Total credit points: 288 (96 coursework credit points and 192 research thesis credit points)
Standard credit points per full-time semester: 48 (average)
Course coordinator: All course enquiries to Research Services Office: email health.research@qut.edu.au or phone 3138 8290
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Overview
This course is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and generic attributes that will prepare health professionals for advanced positions in their profession and for leadership roles.

Students will develop an in-depth understanding of contemporary health science; extend competence in research methods; demonstrate high-level critical thinking and reflective practice skills; enhance their communication skills and contribute to the body of knowledge underpinning their profession.

Students complete one year full time equivalent of coursework including research methods units and advanced studies in an area of specialisation followed by a single or series of research workplace based or industry linked projects to complete the research work which may be presented as a thesis or portfolio.

Major Study Areas
Major study areas include:
- Health Promotion
- Health Services Management and Policy Sciences
- Nursing
- Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences
- Public Health.

Entry requirements
Applicants should hold a four-year degree or its equivalent with first-class honours or second-class honours division A, relevant Masters degree, or its equivalent from QUT or another recognised institution, and two years of practice in a position of professional responsibility appropriate to the proposed course of study.

If, in the Executive Dean’s opinion, the candidate has not completed substantial professional practice, the candidate will be required to gain substantial professional experience during the course of the doctorate.

Application for Admission
Before submitting an application, potential candidates should contact the Course Coordinator who will assist in the preparation of the application.

Candidates should apply on the appropriate form, supplying any specified documentation. The application should be accompanied by a brief proposal for the course of study and the research field.

Advanced Standing and Articulation
Advanced standing of up to a maximum of 96 credit points may be granted to candidates who have completed an appropriate masters qualification or its equivalent.

The Doctor of Health Science will fully articulate with the Master of Health Science and students who select their program of study to be consistent with the coursework requirements for the Doctor of Health Science will be eligible for the full credit of 96 credit points.

Course Structure
Students undertake 96 credit points of coursework units and 192 research thesis credit points. The coursework is chosen from the major study areas and must be completed before proceeding to the research component.

To achieve the appropriate advanced levels students must:

- choose one of the major study areas
- complete two units in research methods
- complete one unit in theoretical frameworks
- complete four units from this major study area plus one approved elective unit or complete five units from this major study area.

Students are required to attend a compulsory residential program of two days annually during their candidature.
International Student Entry
International students may enrol in February or July in full-time studies.

Further Information
For more information about this course, please contact the Faculty of Health on phone +61 7 3138 8290 or email health.research@qut.edu.au

Full-time Course Structure

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Research Methods Core Units and Major Study Area Units

Research Methods Core Units
- Two units must be completed from the following:
  - HLN405 Qualitative Research
  - HLN710 Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Research Design
  - HLN706 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods
  - PUN105 Health Statistics
  - NSN424 Evidence Based Practice

Theoretical Framework Unit
- PUN103 Advanced Epidemiology
- HLN710 Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Research Design
- PUP032 Intervention Design and Theories of Change
- PUN632 Health Services Management, Leadership and Change
Major Study Area Units
Students must complete four units from their major study area plus one approved elective unit OR complete five units from this major study area. Please check unit availability for 2008.

Health Promotion
HLN701 Independent Study
PUP034 Advanced Studies and Practice in Health Promotion
PUP037 Health Program Evaluation
PUN467 Public Health Risk Assessment

Health Services Management and Policy Sciences
HLN701 Independent Study
PUN608 Health Economics
PUN632 Health Services Management, Leadership and Change
PUN211 Health Care Finance and Economics
PUN688 International Health Policy and Management

Public Health
HLN701 Independent Study
PUN103 Advanced Epidemiology
PUP034 Advanced Studies and Practice in Health Promotion
PUP037 Health Program Evaluation

Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences
HLN701 Independent Study
PUN008 Risk Assessment
PUN010 Implementing Risk Management
PUN106 Population Health
PUN363 Environmental Health Law
PUN465 Environmental Protection
PUN466 Communicable diseases
PUN467 Public Health Risk Assessment
PUP250 Occupational Hygiene
PUP415 Occupational Health

Nursing
HLN701 Independent Study
NSN424 Evidence Based Practice
NSN507 Contemporary Practice Issues
NSN508 Advanced Readings in Nursing

NSN515 Clinical Leadership and Management

Electives
Electives may be selected from the Major Study Areas List or from units in other discipline fields following consultation with the Course Coordinator.

Potential Careers:
Community Health Officer, Health Policy Officer, Health Promotion Officer, Health Researcher, Health Services Manager, Public Health Officer, Statistician.

UNIT SYNOPSISES

HLN405 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
This unit addresses a range of qualitative methodologies and methods which represent alternative approaches to the application of the quantitative paradigm in health science research. The predominance of the natural sciences in nursing/health research has come into question in recent times and thus the unit introduces students to the origins of such challenges, to the knowledge bases of the alternative approaches to investigating the microsocial world of health/illness and to the relevant research methods. The unit comprises a series of lectures, seminar presentations and relevant readings.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

HLN701 INDEPENDENT STUDY
Independent Study allows students to study a topic which is not otherwise available as a formal unit. Students have the opportunity to pursue their studies relatively independently and to develop and practice skills in problem identification, evaluation and/or critical thinking. The study may be for example a critical literature review, an examination of guidelines or an evaluation. The process and outcomes are negotiated in a contract with a supervisor.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1, 2010 SEM-2 and 2010 SUM

HLN706 ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
The content of this unit builds on the basic statistics background assumed of students. A unifying theme is the concept of sources of variation in collected data, how proper design of study and measurement instruments minimises some sources of variation (error), how analytical techniques account for other sources, and finally the issue of introduced error that cannot be accounted for, but must be addressed.
in discussion of results. Analytical strategies for modelling health data are compared, and practical experience focuses on the analysis and interpretation of various data sets.

**Prerequisites:** PUN105  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 4 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**HLN710 FUNDAMENTALS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN**  
This unit introduces you to the fundamentals of epidemiology and quantitative research design. It addresses the collection and interpretation of epidemiological data, introduces measures of disease occurrence and association, and contemporary issues of major importance in health. It provides you with essential skills for logical, scientific assessment of the health and medical literature. There will be a strong emphasis on applying concepts through critical reading of the literature and the development of a comprehensive research proposal as the main practical exercise of the unit.

**Antirequisites:** HLN705, PUN743  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

**IFR424 DOCTORAL RESEARCH**  
**Credit points:** 24  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

**IFR448 DOCTORAL RESEARCH**  
**Credit points:** 48  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

**NSN424 EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE**  
On successful completion of this unit students will be able to critically appraise systematic reviews of evidence and design projects for the implementation of evidence into practice. Content includes: Evidence-based terminology, principles and processes; incorporating evidence into practice; comparing and contrasting current practice with the most current evidence; modifying policies and procedures to be consistent with the evidence; use of audit results to identify areas of practice that are consistent with the evidence and those needing revision; formulating strategies for promoting the uptake of evidence-based practice.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**NSN507 CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE ISSUES**  
This unit allows students to explore current issues and develop their understanding through application of relevant theoretical frameworks to nursing practice in selected specialty areas. Students undertaking this unit will examine social, political and economic factors that shape and have shaped nursing practice, analyse factors influencing the organisation of nursing practice, and critically apply a theoretical framework to current issues relevant to nursing practice.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** Negotiated with Course Coordinator  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**NSN508 ADVANCED READINGS IN NURSING**  
This unit provides the opportunity for students to access and review a body of literature relevant to an area of individual interest in nursing. This will enable students to extend their knowledge and understanding of a topic which is not specifically addressed elsewhere in the course. In addition, students undertaking this unit will have the opportunity to develop advanced skills information retrieval, critical analysis and writing for publication.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

**NSN515 CLINICAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**  
This unit aims to extend students’ understanding of contemporary issues and trends in the development of leadership in professional practice, strengthen their abilities to provide effective leadership and further develop skills in peer consultation and reflective practice as strategies to support a critical approach to the provision of leadership in the workplace. The unit addresses strategic thinking and planning; organisational and interpersonal communication; decision making; team building; multidisciplinary teams; managing conflict; facilitating change; and creating growth-producing work environments.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PUN008 RISK ASSESSMENT**  
This unit provides the skills necessary to identify and assess risks. Qualitative, semi-quantitative and quantitative methods of risk analysis are investigated in the context of the major perils likely to be considered by an organisation. Various risk analysis techniques including HAZOP, FMEA, hazard indices, fault trees, event trees, reliability analysis, statistical analysis, and probability are discussed.

**Prerequisites:** PUN001  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PUN010 IMPLEMENTING RISK MANAGEMENT**  
A robust system is necessary to ensure the ongoing commitment to the risk management process and to ensure positive outcomes. The risk management process needs to be integrated and strategic in its approach. It requires commitment from senior management and an organisational strategy designed to maximise business value. This unit investigates the role of risk management in an organisation, organisational experiences in implementing risk
management programs, and ways of ensuring the success of a risk management program.

**Prerequisites:** PUN008  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** External

**PUN211 HEALTH CARE FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**

The unit develops analytical skills and understanding of micro- and macro- economics as they apply to health and of accounting and financial management decision-making principles and processes. It offers an overview of the financial structure of the Australian Health Care system and the context in which it operates. It also offers an understanding of the basic concepts and tools of economic analysis and introduces concepts that are essential in understanding financial resource management, health and health care.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PUN363 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAW**

The purpose of this unit is to develop students who have a detailed understanding of the legislation and legislative frameworks and principles that form the foundation for environmental health practice. In particular, this unit will detail various legislative tools for the management of public health issues in different settings. The prosecution process and gathering of evidence will be discussed along with a detailed discussion on the environmental health practitioners role under the Public Health Act 2005, Environmental Protection Act 1994 and other related legislation. Major topics covered include: an introduction to law and government, public health law, planning and environmental law, local laws, investigation processes and procedures.

**Assumed knowledge:** PUN620 is assumed knowledge.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PUN465 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

This unit aims to give students a detailed understanding of the causes, controls measures and management strategies for environmental pollution and an understanding of environmental impacts on human health. A variety of topics on environmental management are covered including environmental management principles, environmental policy and legislation, integrated planning, waste management, contaminated land, air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution.

**Prerequisites:** PUN620 and PUN363  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PUN466 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

This unit aims to provide a comprehensive overview of communicable diseases and to discuss current surveillance, control and prevention methods/strategies implemented by public health agencies. Topics in this unit include the following: communicable disease principles; physiology and epidemiology; outbreak investigation and management; immunisation; vector control; disease surveillance; and infection control.
PUN467 PUBLIC HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT
The aim of this unit is to provide future public health professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively assess and manage risks associated with a variety of public health hazards. Topics covered in this unit include the following: the Australian standard risk management framework; environmental health risk assessment framework (issues identification, hazard identification, dose-response assessment, exposure assessment, risk characterisation); risk management strategies and approaches; fundamentals of environmental toxicology and its application in health risk assessment; health impact assessment; effective risk communication and community consultation approaches for public health risks; and case studies.
Credit points: 12    Campus: Kelvin Grove    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUP032 INTERVENTION DESIGN AND THEORIES OF CHANGE
This unit examines theories of change as they impact on health promotion and health education practice and the development and implementation of public health interventions. The unit addresses the strengths and weaknesses of change theory into practice and explores the nature of individual, group and organisational change strategies in public health and health promotion.
Credit points: 12    Contact hours: 3 per week    Campus: Kelvin Grove and External    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

PUP034 ADVANCED STUDIES AND PRACTICE IN HEALTH PROMOTION
This advanced unit identifies the repertoire of practice skills that health promotion students need to address health problems. It integrates needs identification, systematic planning and evaluation models into practice. Internal students put this knowledge into practice through participation in a group based health promotion project. The process of developing and implementing a health promotion program develops an understanding of issues such as ethics, writing goals and objectives, resources and time management. External students conduct a needs assessment and use the data to write a health promotion program proposal.
Prerequisites: PUP032 and PUP038    Antirequisites: PUN613 and PUP023    Credit points: 12    Contact hours: 3 per week    Campus: Kelvin Grove and External    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUP037 HEALTH PROGRAM EVALUATION
The aim of the unit is to provide students with skills and knowledge of health program evaluation, its place in public health and health sector contexts, the influences of evidence and contexts, both organisational and political in program evaluation and the application of program evaluation techniques. This unit complements health studies and deepens students' understanding of program evaluation in practice.
Assumed knowledge: Knowledge of the principles of health promotion planning is assumed.    Credit points: 12    Campus: Kelvin Grove and External    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUP250 OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE
Occupational and environmental monitoring is described as the recognition, evaluation and control of hazards in the workplace. Workplaces contain numerous substances that are potentially hazardous to the health of the workforce, other occupants and the public. Occupational and environmental monitoring spans a number of disciplines including toxicology, engineering and statistics. Students need to develop strong investigative and analytical abilities.
and professional judgment. Students also develop skills in evaluating the extent of workplace hazards. A preventative approach to dealing with occupational health problems is emphasised based on an understanding of the control hierarchy and the use of exposure standards.

Credit points: 12    Contact hours: 3 per week    Campus: Kelvin Grove and External    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUP415 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
This unit explores chemical hazards in the working environment, epidemiological principles and practice, and identification of special risk groups in the workforce. Topics include the following: the pathological bases of disease in humans; chronic occupational diseases; occupational skin conditions; respiratory diseases; biological hazards in the work environment (bacteria, parasites, viruses, rickettsia and fungi); chemical and physical stresses and their physiological responses; physiological monitoring principles and practice; special risk groups; and epidemiological principles and practice.

Credit points: 12    Contact hours: 3    Campus: Kelvin Grove and External    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2