Graduate Certificate in Nursing (NS32)

Year offered: 2011
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (part-time): 2 semesters
Course duration (external): 2 semesters
Domestic Fees (indicative): 2011: CSP $2,721 per semester (indicative)
Domestic Entry: February and July
Total credit points: 48
Course coordinator: Enquiries to nursing.enquiries@qut.edu.au or phone: 07 3138 3824
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External

Overview
The Graduate Certificate in Nursing provides graduates with a short, focused program to upgrade qualifications, knowledge and skills in particular areas of nursing practice. The course enables students to develop competence in their areas of practice, to examine major issues and trends in nursing scholarship and practice, and to develop an understanding of research applied to nursing practice.

Study areas
Study areas are available in the following areas:
- Acute Care
- Ageing and Dementia Studies
- Cancer Nursing
- Emergency Nursing
- Intensive Care Nursing
- Paediatric and Child Youth Health Nursing
- Professional Studies
- Women’s Health

Entry requirements
An applicant must be:
- registered as a nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia or the nurse regulatory authority in the student’s state or territory of residence
- have gained a degree in nursing (or equivalent) from a recognised institution
- normally have at least one year of appropriate post-registration clinical experience
- meet any additional requirements for the study area chosen.

Alternatively, applicants may be admitted on the basis of relevant experience at the discretion of the Head of School of Nursing.

Applicants must provide original or certified documentary evidence for each entry requirement. For example:
- Queensland Nursing Council or equivalent registration;
- Nursing academic qualifications (if not awarded by QUT), that is, an award certificate and academic transcripts; and a supervisor signed letter or a statement of service to confirm your post-registration experience and your current employment position (where required for a study area).

All applicants should also complete the questionnaire to accompany their applications available at http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/pdfs/forms/pg_forms/PostgradNursingQuestion.pdf

Entry requirements for specific study areas are as follows:

Acute Care Nursing
Applicants must be employed in an acute practice setting for the duration of the course. Students are required to undertake workplace-based clinical experience in this setting as part of the course requirements.

Cancer Nursing
Applicants for the Cancer Nursing study area must normally be working at least 0.6 FTE in the practice setting relevant to cancer nursing. Students not working within these settings may be required to undertake additional supernumerary clinical experience to meet the requirements of the course.

Emergency Nursing
Applicants for the Emergency Nursing study area must have at least three months of recent clinical experience in an emergency facility, and be working at least 0.6 FTE in an emergency facility.

Intensive Care Nursing
Applicants for the Intensive Care study area must also have had at least three months of recent clinical experience in an intensive care unit and be working at least 0.6 FTE in a level two or three intensive care facility.

Paediatric, Child and Youth Health Nursing
Students undertaking this study area will specialise in paediatric nursing or child and youth health nursing.

Applicants for the paediatric specialisation must be working at least 0.6 FTE in a paediatric setting.

Applicants wishing to specialise in child and youth health nursing do not need to be working in this area to undertake the course, however they will be required to undertake a clinical practicum.
Advanced Standing
Applicants who have studied the “Transition to Practice Nurse” program (Queensland Health), may be eligible for Advanced Standing (or credit) for some units within the Graduate Certificate and should download the “AS” Advanced Standing form: http://www.student.qut.edu.au/forms/.

To support an application, an original or certified copy of the award certificate as evidence of completion of the Transition to Practice Nurse program must be provided.

Course structure
The course structures of the Graduate Certificate in Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Nursing and Master of Nursing offer a wide range of pathways for nurses working in diverse settings, while at the same time ensuring opportunities for in-depth study to develop an advanced level of competence in selected areas of nursing practice. Students may undertake one of eight study areas in the Graduate Certificate in Nursing.

There are three recommended pathways—clinical, professional and research—leading from the Graduate Certificate through the Graduate Diploma to the Master of Nursing.

Course articulation
The Graduate Certificate in Nursing, the Graduate Diploma in Nursing and the Master of Nursing fully articulate.

International students
The Graduate Certificate in Nursing is offered part-time only in internal or external mode and is not available to international students.

Further information
For information about this course, please call the School of Nursing and Midwifery on +617 3138 3824 or email nursing.enquiries@qut.edu.au

Acute Care Study Area - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1
NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
NSN724 Advanced Nursing Practice

Year 1, Semester 2
NSN726 Advanced Clinical Practice
NSN725 Specialisation in Medical/Surgical and Cancer Nursing

Ageing and Dementia Studies Study Area - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1
NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
NSN626 Studies in Dementia

Year 1, Semester 2
NSN821 Promoting Healthy Ageing
NSN822 Palliation in Dementia

Cancer Nursing - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1
NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
NSN724 Advanced Nursing Practice

Year 1, Semester 2
NSN726 Advanced Clinical Practice
NSN725 Specialisation in Medical/Surgical and Cancer Nursing

Emergency Nursing - Part-time

Year 1 Semester 1
NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
NSN721 Key Issues in Emergency and Intensive Care Nursing

Year 1, Semester 2
NSN723 Specialisation in Critical Care Nursing
NSN727 Emergency Nursing Practice in Unique Client Population

Intensive Care Nursing - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1
NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
NSN721 Key Issues in Emergency and Intensive Care Nursing

Year 1, Semester 2
NSN722 Principles of Intensive Care Nursing
NSN723 Specialisation in Critical Care Nursing

Paediatric, Child and Youth Health Nursing - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1
NSN002 Key Issues in Child and Youth Health Nursing
NSN003 Principles of Paediatric, Child and Youth Health Nursing

Year 1, Semester 2

NSN006 Specialisation in Paediatric, Child and Youth Health Nursing
NSN004 Acute Paediatric Nursing
OR
NSN005 Community Child and Youth Health Nursing

Professional Studies - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1

NSN507 Contemporary Practice Issues
NSN508 Advanced Readings in Nursing

Year 1 Semester 2

Two units chosen from the following:
NSN324 Critical Issues in Neonatal Care
NSN424 Evidence Based Practice
NSN427 Prevention of Violence Against Women
NSN515 Clinical Leadership and Management
NSN516 Sexual and Reproductive Health
NSN626 Studies in Dementia
NSN723 Specialisation in Critical Care Nursing
NSN821 Promoting Healthy Ageing
NSN822 Palliation in Dementia
HLN720 Clinical Education in Health
PUN552 Population Nutrition and Physical Activity Assessment
PUN553 Chronic Disease Prevention and Management or another 12 credit point unit approved by the Course Coordinator

Women's Health - part-time

Year 1, Semester 1

NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
NSN517 Women's Health Issues

Year 1, Semester 1

NSN427 Prevention of Violence Against Women
NSN516 Sexual and Reproductive Health

Potential Careers:
Aged Services Worker, Community Education Officer, Community Health Officer, Director of Health Programs and Services, Disability Services Worker, Health Educator, Health Policy Officer, Health Promotion Officer, Health Services Manager, Nurse, Public Health Officer, Youth Worker.

UNIT SYNOPSISES

HLN720 CLINICAL EDUCATION IN HEALTH
This unit is to introduces you to principles and practices designed to facilitate learning in the clinical context. Completion of the unit will enable you to differentiate between clinical supervision and clinical education, and relate to this to your own field of practice; demonstrate knowledge and understanding of models/theories of clinical education and their application within your own field of practice; demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts and principles related to learning, teaching and assessment in the clinical context; apply concepts and principles related to clinical learning, teaching and assessment to your field of practice; reflect critically on your learning in this unit and its implications for your future practice.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 SEM-2

NSN002 KEY ISSUES IN CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH NURSING
This unit addresses contemporary issues in child and youth health, to provide the basis for further study in this field. A Primary Health Care framework will be used to consider issues that impact on the health of children and young people. In addition key policy frameworks will provide direction for study in the unit. The unit will consider the impact of social determinants on child, youth and family health and examine current strategies to address such impacts. Students will have the opportunity to examine local programs and strategies aimed at improving health outcomes.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

NSN003 PRINCIPLES OF PAEDIATRIC, CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH NURSING
Students in this unit are introduced to issues facing nursing when providing care for children and families in the acute and community service environment. The unit presents an overview of the contemporary health problems faced by the Australian child and family and explores nursing interventions that enhance adaptation and health.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1
NSN004 ACUTE PAEDIATRIC NURSING
This unit is designed to provide registered nurses with advanced knowledge and skills to enable them to provide safe and competent care to children experiencing acute paediatric illness. This unit will focus on acute health problems in children, employing clinical assessment, problem solving and critical thinking skills. Following completion of this unit the registered nurse will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in the nursing management of acute and chronic health problems within paediatric clinical practice.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN005 COMMUNITY CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH NURSING
This unit is designed to provide a sound basis for nursing practice in the area of community child and youth health. Students will examine contemporary issues relating to their professional role in caring for children, youth and families within the community context. The unit adopts a primary health care approach to examine the nurses' role in primary and secondary prevention, in supporting families in the community and in health education and community development.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN006 SPECIALISATION IN PAEDIATRIC, CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH NURSING
This unit will provide students with clinical knowledge and understanding in a selected area of paediatric or child and youth health sub-specialty. The unit is based on a learning contract that will include both theoretical and clinical learning activities and assessment.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN324 CRITICAL ISSUES IN NEONATAL CARE
An understanding of the physical, emotional and psycho-social factors which can impact on the health and wellbeing of infants and their families is essential to the provision of effective and supportive care. This unit explores issues in neonatal care including the complexity of physiological adaptation required at the time of birth, and common vulnerabilities in the neonate which may cause short and long term health problems. An introduction to ethical issues relevant to contemporary neonatal care provides a background to providing effective care for infants and families.

Prerequisites: NSN311, NSN321  Credit points: 12  Campus: External  Teaching period: 2011 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 and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN427 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
The unit explores the prevalence, incidence, and impact of abuse on the individual, family, community and society. A range of approaches to prevention and intervention will be explored, both from local, national and international perspectives, to enable students to contextualise the learning to their discipline area.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN507 CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE ISSUES
This unit allow 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: 2011 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: 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 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  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN516 SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
This unit will bring together current research and evidence-based practice and information as well as, a health-oriented approach to the subject of sexuality and reproduction. The purpose of this unit is to highlight the fundamental issue that even though screening programs have emerged and improved women’s health, women continue to have health problems that are unique to them as women. The aim of this unit is for the student to come to the understanding that a woman’s sexual health encompasses not only the medical and physical components of sexual activity but a holistic understanding of physical and mental health. These are seen as being influenced by self-esteem, values, culture and socio-economic factors as well as societal influences.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN517 WOMEN’S HEALTH ISSUES
This unit provides students with opportunities to develop and expand their theoretical knowledge and skills in the area of women’s health, and utilises the primary health care framework in considering the major objectives for helping women achieve optimal health as documented in women’s health policy. This unit aims to make primary healthcare professionals aware of the broader social context in which service, delivery and care take place.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

NSN626 STUDIES IN DEMENTIA
Dementia is characterised by progressive impairment of brain functions involving memory, perception, language, personality and cognition. Estimates of the prevalence of dementia have been reported as doubling every five years of age after the age of 65 and as affecting nearly one in four of those aged 85 and over (AIHW, 2004). Providing services for people with dementia and support to their carers presents a significant challenge to health service providers both now and into the future. The aim of this unit is to allow you to explore a range of health service delivery and community care issues associated with dementia, particularly Alzheimer’s disease.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN701 ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT
This unit aims to develop an advanced understanding of health assessment in nursing practice. This will be achieved by exploring the theoretical, conceptual and practical knowledge required to effectively assess the individual, family and their environment to provide nursing care within the context of specialist practice.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

NSN721 KEY ISSUES IN EMERGENCY AND INTENSIVE CARE NURSING
Health service delivery is undergoing rapid change, and the nature and scope of nursing practice reflects this. Registered nurses working in Intensive Care and Emergency settings require the ability to care for patients that are increasingly critically ill in an environment that evidences increasingly complex technology. As such, registered nurses require knowledge and skills that enable them to understand a client’s health needs, determine appropriate interventions, predict and manage complications, and develop specific plans of care for critically ill individuals and their families that are appropriate to their unique needs and personal context.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

NSN722 PRINCIPLES OF INTENSIVE CARE NURSING
Registered nurses working in Intensive Care require the ability to care for patients who are increasingly critically ill in an environment that evidences increasingly complex technology. Nurses working in this field require an advanced level of knowledge of evidence based principles and practices appropriate to prevent and manage these health problems, as well as skills in the implementation and evaluation of intervention strategies, in the context of a multidisciplinary team.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN723 SPECIALISATION IN CRITICAL CARE NURSING
Critical care environments provide care for individuals with a diverse range of health problems. This unit will provide the opportunity for students to further develop and consolidate prior learning in a critical care clinical setting of their choice. In this unit students will expand on their theoretical, professional & practical knowledge to assess patients, plan and implement nursing care in a particular critical care environment.

Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2
NSN724 ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
This unit is designed to present a foundation of theoretical and practice concepts required for registered nurses to provide effective, consumer-focused nursing care within a variety of clinical contexts in a range of practice settings. The unit provides a framework from which students can develop an understanding of the impact of selected health problems on individuals, families, and communities. This will include practice concepts (philosophies, evidence based practice, competencies and continuity of care); physiological, pathophysiological and psychosocial underpinnings of advanced speciality or generalist practice; planning of appropriate strategies/interventions for client care; and development of selected technical skills.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

NSN725 SPECIALISATION IN MEDICAL/SURGICAL AND CANCER NURSING
This clinically based unit will provide the opportunity for students to further develop and consolidate prior learning in a clinical setting of their choice. This unit will enable students to discuss issues and trends occurring in nursing practice in a selected medical/surgical or cancer care environment, and critically analyse the advanced concepts that underpin specialist nursing practice. Students will demonstrate clinical judgement and reflective skills through the application of theoretical concepts to common health problems experienced by clients in a selected medical/surgical or cancer care environment. They will also initiate plans of care to address common needs/problems experienced by clients in this specialist field.

Prerequisites: NSN701  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN726 ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE
This unit aims to develop students’ understanding of the theory, process and practice of advanced nursing in a designated practice context, to enable them to effectively prevent and manage common health problems experienced by individuals and families in a range of locations within their field. Content which relates to a broad range of clinical nursing practice will be addressed. This will include: physiological, pathophysiological and psychosocial underpinnings of advanced nursing practice across a broad range of body systems and health problems; planning of appropriate strategies/interventions for client care; and development of related technical skills.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN727 EMERGENCY NURSING PRACTICE IN UNIQUE CLIENT POPULATION
This unit enables students to critically analyse the advanced concepts that underpin specialist nursing practice in emergency care to unique client populations; demonstrate clinical judgement through the application of theoretical concepts to health problems experienced by unique client populations requiring emergency care; initiate plans of care to address frequently experienced problems encountered by unique client populations requiring emergency care; demonstrate critical reflection skills in applying theoretical concepts to your own practice.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN821 PROMOTING HEALTHY AGEING
Individuals’ reactions to growing older are embedded in their cultural traditions and social experiences rather than determined through years of age. Responses to ageing are shaped to some extent by expectations about being old. Too frequently, older people are confronted with negative stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. All forms of ageism. Now, more than ever, health professionals need to be conversant with the impact of an ageing population on services generally, and what government and community initiatives are in place for positive and healthy ageing.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

NSN822 PALLIATION IN DEMENTIA
Regardless of discipline, those working with older people, whether in the community or in residential care settings, need a broad and holistic understanding of the many issues associated with service delivery: legal, ethical, geographic, service access and availability, workforce issues and funding, among others. These issues impact on the type and quality of services delivered and therefore, on clients and their families. This Unit enables students to explore a range of complex issues relating to service provision for older people.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

PUN552 POPULATION NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT
This unit focuses on the methods and special features of assessing and monitoring nutrition and physical activity in individuals, groups and whole populations.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

PUN553 CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
This unit aims to broaden your understanding of the determinants and issues relating to many major chronic diseases and to critically examine and review the application of a number of currently recommended frameworks, strategies and approaches for their prevention and their management both internationally and nationally.
Credit points: 12  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2