Graduate Certificate in Aged Care (NS39)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: No
Course duration (part-time): 2 semesters
Course duration (external): 2 semesters
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: Full fee tuition $7,250 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February and July
Total credit points: 48
Standard credit points per part-time semester: 24
Course coordinator: Dr Fiona Coyer
Discipline coordinator: Ms Eleanor Horton
Campus: Kelvin Grove

No further intake

No new admissions are being accepted into this program from 2009. A study area in Ageing and Dementia Studies is available in NS32 Graduate Certificate in Nursing.

Overview
The Graduate Certificate in Aged Care has been designed to provide graduates from health and related disciplines with a short, focused program to upgrade qualifications, knowledge and skills in aged care. The course will enable students to develop competence in the practice of aged care, examine major issues and trends in aged care policy and practice, and develop an understanding of research applied to aged care practice. The course is suitable for registered nurses and other professionals working in the field of aged care.

Course Structure
The Graduate Certificate in Aged Care comprises four core units. These units address topics including health assessment in aged care, active ageing and wellness for older people living in the community, pathologies and associated practice interventions in caring for older people experiencing ill health, and policy and practice issues pertinent to the specialist practitioner in aged care, dementia, and family care.

The course can be undertaken by internal or external mode and can also be commenced mid-year.

Entry requirements
Applicants must have a bachelor degree in the health profession (or equivalent) from a recognised institution; or alternatively, registered nurses who hold other qualifications or experience approved by the Head of School of Nursing may be admitted; and have a minimum of one year of recent experience in aged care.

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

Course Articulation
The Graduate Certificate in Aged Care has full articulation with the Graduate Diploma in Nursing, the Master of Nursing, the Graduate Diploma in Health Science, and the Master of Health Science.

International Student Entry
This course is not available to international students.

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

Part-Time Course structure

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<th>Year 1, Semester 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSN801 Health Assessment in Aged Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSN821 Promoting Healthy Ageing</td>
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<th>Year 1, Semester 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>NSN822 Palliation in Dementia</td>
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<td>NSN626 Studies in Dementia</td>
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UNIT SYNOPSES

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 (AIH&W, 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  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

NSN801 HEALTH ASSESSMENT IN AGED CARE
The development of advanced health assessment knowledge & skills for health care practitioners working with older people has been recognised as crucial in determining the effectiveness & efficiency of care delivery. Theoretical knowledge of biopsychosocial aspects of ageing will be applied to the assessment of the client in order to develop a competent approach to caring for the older person. The unit is designed to complement a variety of health assessment approaches across a variety of social, cultural and clinical contexts. This will be achieved by exploring the theoretical, conceptual and practical knowledge required to effectively assess the individual, family and their environment to provide care within the context of this specialist area.

Credit points: 12    Contact hours: 3 per week    Campus: Kelvin Grove and External    Teaching period: 2008 SEM-1

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: 2010 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    Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2