Master of Nursing (NS85)

Year offered: 2011
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 012644J
Course duration (full-time): 3 semesters
Course duration (part-time): 6 semesters
Course duration (external): 3 semesters (full-time) or 6 semesters (part-time)
Domestic Fees (indicative): 2011: Full fee tuition $7,375 (indicative) per semester
International Fees (indicative): 2011: $10,875 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February and July
International Entry: February and July (Midwifery: Feb only)
Total credit points: 144
Standard credit points per full-time semester: 48
Standard credit points per part-time semester: 24
Course coordinator: Enquiries to nursing.enquiries@qut.edu.au or phone: 07 3138 3824
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External

Study Areas
The following majors are offered in this course:
- Acute Care Nursing #
- Ageing and Dementia Studies
- Cancer Nursing #
- Emergency Nursing #
- Intensive Care Nursing #
- Paediatric, Child and Youth Health Nursing #
- Professional Studies
- Women's Health
- Midwifery * #

*Only offered in the February intake.
# Not available to international students

Students may follow one of the following pathways:
- Clinical
- Professional
- Research

Entry Requirements - Domestic Applicants
An applicant must be:
- registered as a nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- 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.

In addition candidates seeking entry to the Master of Nursing are normally required to hold an undergraduate degree in nursing (or equivalent) at a grade point average of 5 or above.

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: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 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.
Midwifery
An applicant for the Midwifery strand must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia with endorsement as midwife practitioners.

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.

Course Structure
The course structures offer a wider 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 nine different majors. For a detailed overview of the majors available, please refer to the Graduate Certificate relevant to these areas of study.

The Master of Nursing consists of the content of the Graduate Diploma in Nursing plus a further 48 credit points. Students who wish to graduate with a specified major in the Master of Nursing (except Professional Studies) will be required to complete the 96 credit points of the Graduate Diploma in Nursing units relevant to that major and undertake either a 48 credit point thesis or an additional 24 credit points of the remaining 48 credit points at the masters level in units also relevant to that major. These 24 credit points can be undertaken by completing relevant coursework units or a 24 credit point clinical project.

Students who wish to graduate from the Master of Nursing with a major in Professional Studies will be required to complete the 96 credit points of the Graduate Diploma in Nursing, and can then choose to complete the remaining 48 credit points at the masters level either by coursework, project or thesis. The coursework units may be selected from any postgraduate level units offered within the University for which the student has the necessary prerequisite.

The Master of Nursing may be undertaken both in the full-time and part-time in internal or external mode.

Professional Studies
The purpose of this area of study is to enable students who do not wish to undertake in-depth study in a particular specialty to have maximum flexibility to select a program of study relevant to their needs. The program is designed to extend and enhance existing nursing knowledge and skills; build confidence and leadership skills; provide a forum for critical examination of contemporary nursing; attain academic experience and qualifications; and foster an understanding of nursing within the broader umbrella of health care.

For a detailed overview of the majors available, please refer to the Graduate Certificate relevant to these areas of study.

Course Articulation
The Graduate Diploma in Nursing and the Master of Nursing fully articulate.

Students who complete the Master of Nursing may also be eligible for up to 96 credit points advanced standing in HL90 Doctor of Health Science.

Limits on grades of 3
A new policy concerning grades of 3 came into effect from 1 January 2009 (QUT MOPP C/5.2). With effect from this date grades of 3 are no longer considered a conceded or low pass but are classified as a fail grade. Any grades of 3 awarded prior to 1 January 2009 retain the conceded pass status and will be counted for graduation purposes up to the maximum number of grades of 3 permitted for your course. Grades of 3 incurred in units that commence after 1 January 2009 will not count towards your degree. Further information is available on the Student Services website.

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.edu.au

Full-Time Course structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year, Semesters 1 and 2</th>
<th>Students are required to complete the two semesters of the Graduate Diploma in Nursing content in their major area of study or the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery before continuing onto the third semester of the Master of Nursing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 2, Semester 1</td>
<td>Clinical Strand: Select TWO from the following three choices (each 24 credit points):</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Year 1 and Year 2

Students are required to complete the two semesters full-time (or 4 semesters part-time) of the Graduate Diploma in Nursing content in their major area of study or the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery before continuing onto the third semester of the Master of Nursing.

Year 3, Semester 1

Clinical Strand:
Choose ONE of the following three options (each 24 credit points):

- NSN504 Clinical Fellowship
- NSN506 Clinical Project

Select TWO 12 credit point electives from List A electives

Professional Strand:
Choose ONE of the following two options (each 24 credit points):

- NSN506 Clinical Project

Select TWO 12 credit point electives from List A electives

Research Strand:
NSN825-1 Thesis (Part 1)

Year 3, Semester 2

Clinical Strand:
Choose ONE of the following three options (each 24 credit points):

- NSN504 Clinical Fellowship
- NSN506 Clinical Project

Select TWO 12 credit point electives from List B electives

Professional Strand:
Choose ONE of the following two options (each 24 credit points):

- NSN506 Clinical Project

Select TWO 12 credit point electives from List A electives

Research Strand:
Choose ONE of the following two options (each 24 credit points):

- NSN825-2 Thesis (Part 2)

NS85 Elective Lists

Master of Nursing List A electives

- HLN405 Qualitative Research
- HLN710 Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Research Design
- HLN720 Clinical Education in Health
- NSN002 Key Issues in Child and Youth Health Nursing
- NSN507 Contemporary Practice Issues
- NSN508 Advanced Readings in Nursing
- NSN517 Women's Health Issues
- NSN701 Advanced Health Assessment
- NSN721 Key Issues in Emergency and Intensive Care Nursing
- NSN724 Advanced Nursing Practice
- NSN821 Promoting Healthy Ageing
- PUN105 Health Statistics

or any other 12 credit point postgraduate unit

Master of Nursing List B electives

- HLN711 Advanced Qualitative Methods
- HLN720 Clinical Education in Health
- NSN324 Critical Issues in Neonatal Care
- NSN424 Evidence Based Practice
- NSN427 Prevention of Violence Against Women
- NSN508 Advanced Readings in Nursing
- NSN515 Clinical Leadership and Management
- NSN516 Sexual and Reproductive Health
- NSN626 Studies in Dementia
- NSN723 Specialisation in Critical Care Nursing
  [Intensive Care Study Area only]
- NSN725 Specialisation in Medical/Surgical and Cancer Nursing
- NSN727 Emergency Nursing Practice in Unique Client Population
- NSN822 Palliation in Dementia
- PUN552 Population Nutrition and Physical Activity Assessment
PUN553 Chronic Disease Prevention and Management or any other 12 credit point postgraduate unit

UNIT SYNOPSES

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

HLN711 ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS
This unit offers you the opportunity to study, explore and understand a range of qualitative methods. The focus is on the development of rigorous qualitative research design and on planning and undertaking data collection, data analysis, interpretation and reporting of qualitative research. The aim is to advance student knowledge and skills in relation to the methods of qualitative research and to foster essential skills in collecting, coding, analysing and reporting qualitative research.

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

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

NSN324 CRITICAL ISSUES IN NEONATAL CARE
An understanding of the physical, emotional and psychosocial 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

**NSN504 CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP**

The advanced practice nurse (APN) is a registered nurse who operates at the advanced or specialty level within a nursing model of care. Having first received a comprehensive professional preparation, advanced practice nurses are subsequently prepared through intensive education, experience and competency assessment for their chosen specialty. Armed with the appropriate depth of specialist knowledge and skills, APNs work within a defined client population or area of nursing activity. The aim of this unit is to provide you with the educational and clinical preparation that enables you to function at the advanced level in your area of nursing specialty.

**Credit points:** 24  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 SEM-2

**NSN506 CLINICAL PROJECT**

This unit offers students the opportunity to implement a project of clinical relevance and value to lead to the resolution of practical issues facing nursing. It advances and extends the student's learning from their clinical specialty and the supporting units.

**Credit points:** 24  
**Contact hours:** Negotiated with Course Coordinator  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 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:** 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  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**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  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**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
prior learning in a critical care clinical setting of their choice. This unit aims to make primary health care professionals aware of the broader social context in which service, delivery and care take place.

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

### NSN726 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  **Contact hours:** 3 per week  **Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  **Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1

### 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  **Contact hours:** 3 per week  **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  **Contact hours:** 3 per week  **Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  **Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1

### 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
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 and 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

NSN825 THESIS (PART 1)
The thesis provides students with an opportunity to formally extend and synthesise knowledge gained in earlier semesters of the course. The study represents an independent piece of research completed under the guidance of a supervisor. The thesis may be a study on research which makes a contribution to the body of knowledge in the student's discipline area or professional area, or a study in which the student critically analyses and evaluates existing knowledge and produces observations and conclusions of relevance to the field concerned. Part-time students complete NSN825-1 and NSN825-2. Full-time students complete NSN850. The final thesis is approximately 15,000 to 20,000 words.  
Credit points: 24  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 SEM-2

NSN825 THESIS (PART 2)
The thesis provides students with an opportunity to formally extend and synthesise knowledge gained in earlier semesters of the course. The study represents an independent piece of research completed under the guidance of a supervisor. The thesis may be a study on research which makes a contribution to the body of knowledge in the student's discipline area or professional area, or a study in which the student critically analyses and evaluates existing knowledge and produces observations and conclusions of relevance to the field concerned. Part-time students complete NSN825-1 and NSN825-2. Full-time students complete NSN850. The final thesis is approximately 15,000 to 20,000 words.  
Assumed knowledge: Completion of all required coursework is assumed knowledge  
Credit points: 48  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 SEM-2

PUN105 HEALTH STATISTICS
Beyond a common core of statistical concepts, each discipline area emphasises its own set of descriptive and inferential statistical methods and even terminology. The content of this unit emphasises both core and health specific statistical methods in the health sciences. Students are provided with substantial practical experience in the application and interpretation of the most common statistical methods to health data, and are also made aware of data management principles in preparation for analysis. There is a strong emphasis on applying concepts through critical reading and discussion of the literature and worked examples from a range of topic areas.  
Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  
Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

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

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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