Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) (NS86)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (full-time): 2 semesters
Course duration (part-time): 4 semesters
Course duration (external): 2 semesters (full-time) or 4 semesters (part-time)
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: CSP $2,750 (indicative) per semester; 2010: Full fee tuition $7,250 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February and July (Commonwealth Supported [HECS] places have been filled. Applications received from 24th April 2010 onwards will be considered for full fee tuition-paying places)
Course coordinator: Dr Fiona Coyer
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Overview
The Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) course is a one-year, full-time or two-year, part-time course. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- assess and treat clients in a specialty field of nursing practice and health care
- order diagnostic investigations within a specialty field of nursing practice
- prescribe medications and other interventions from a specialty field of nursing practice
- directly refer patients to other healthcare professionals
- conduct advanced comprehensive health assessments relevant to a specialist field of nursing practice
- demonstrate an ability to conduct clinical services using high-level communication skills, innovation and leadership in both autonomous and multidisciplinary modes of practice
- demonstrate the capacity to think critically and creatively in complex and unfamiliar environments.

The Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) is accredited by the Queensland Nursing Council (QNC). Graduates will be eligible to apply to QNC for authorisation to practise as nurse practitioners in Queensland.

Entry Requirements
Applicants must:

- be a registered nurse with the Queensland Nursing Council (QNC)
- have gained a degree in nursing (or equivalent) from a recognised institution and have gained a graduate certificate in nursing (or equivalent) in the area of nominated specialty from a recognised institution;
- have a minimum of three years full-time equivalent clinical practice experience in the nominated specialty
- be employed in an advanced practice nursing role for the duration of the course.

Alternatively, applicants without the required qualifications may be admitted on the basis of relevant experience at the discretion of the Head of School of Nursing.

To be accepted into the course, applicants will need to have access to a clinical support team in their specialty field of practice. The clinical support team will normally consist of an advanced health practitioner currently practising the extended clinical skills required by the candidate in their specialty field of practice (for example, a medical practitioner or a nurse practitioner), together with an advanced practice nurse in the specialty area (for example, a clinical nurse consultant or an advanced practice nurse). This support team will work with the candidates to assist with the development and extension of practise skills in their specialty field.

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.

Certified or original support letters - a letter from each of the Clinical Support Team members (two letters) and a letter from Director of Nursing - must also be provided.

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

Course Structure
The course consists of seven units - six theoretical units including an elective and an internship over two semesters. The internship will provide extended, supervised and supported clinical practice exposure to consolidate and apply coursework learning. This course may be undertaken by internal or external mode and is available for mid-year entry.
International Student Entry
The course is not available to international students.

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

Full-time course structure (February entry)

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Year 2 - Semester 1

| NSN421  | Assessment and Diagnosis in Extended Practice |
| NSN425-1| Nurse Practitioner Internship |

Year 2 - Semester 2

| NSN425-2| Nurse Practitioner Internship |
| NSN426  | Advanced Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Speciality Nursing Practice |

Full-time course structure (July entry)

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Health Unit prerequisites/corequisites
For information on prereqs & coreqs visit: www.hlth.qut.edu.au/study/forcurrentstudents/

NS86 Elective Lists
HMNursingSc (NursePrac) electives

HLN405 Qualitative Research
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
NSN723 Specialisation in Critical Care Nursing
NSN725 Specialisation in Medical/Surgical and Cancer Nursing
NSN727 Emergency Nursing Practice in Unique Client Population
NSN821 Promoting Healthy Ageing
NSN822 Palliation in Dementia
PUN552 Population Nutrition and Physical Activity Assessment
PUN553 Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

Credit points: 12
Teaching period: 2010 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
Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

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: Kelvin Grove and External
Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

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

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
Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2
This unit relates to the planning and management of therapeutic interventions in health care with a major focus on pharmacology and therapeutics. The content includes the study of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics related to treatment in a wide range of diseases. This will provide the basis for expansion into in-depth knowledge of pharmacology in a specialty field in the unit titled: NSN426 Advanced Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Speciality Nursing Practice.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

NSN425 NURSE PRACTITIONER INTERNSHIP
This unit provides extended, supervised and supported clinical practice exposure to consolidate and apply coursework learning, enabling students to meet the competency and capability standards for the nurse practitioner. Content is determined by the context of practice and the candidate’s own learning objectives. Students will explore the extent of extended clinical practice available to them in the specialty in which they are undertaking the internship. Complementary to the unit objectives, and in consultation with their clinical support teams, students will develop personal learning objectives that reflect the knowledge and skills required in this extended scope of practice.

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

NSN423 NURSE PRACTITIONER ROLE DEVELOPMENT
This unit equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary for the development of the nurse practitioner role and scope of practice. Scope of practice refers to, and includes the extent of clinical practice activities available to the nurse practitioner in their specialty field of practice. Content includes requirements and attributes in clinical leadership, influence and advocacy at all levels of health care. Model development will be explored, scope of practice designed and clinical protocols and treatment formulary developed.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

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-1

NSN426 ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS IN SPECIALITY NURSING PRACTICE
This unit follows on from NSN422 Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Extended Nursing Practice and includes development of the scope of pharmacological and therapeutic practice in a student’s specialty field of practice, designing and developing protocols and medication formulary. It also includes a focus on skills in development of treatment plans that incorporate a creative, efficacious, patient-centred and sustainable management of symptom/disease states that are based on best evidence.

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

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

**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:** 2010 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. 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.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**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.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Teaching period:** 2010 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  
**Teaching period:** 2010 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 of 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  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2
PUN552 POPULATION NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT  
Credit points: 12  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUN553 CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT  
Credit points: 12  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2