Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) (NS86)

Year offered: 2012
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): 2012: CSP $2,833 (indicative) per Semester
Domestic Entry: February
Course coordinator: Enquiries to nursing@qut.edu.au or 07 3138 3824
Campus: Kelvin Grove and External

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.

Note: Information on Australian Government Scholarships in the area of aged care is available at: http://rcna.org.au/scholarships/government_scholarships

Professional recognition
The course meets the requirements for accreditation by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). Graduates meet the requirements for registration by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia with endorsement as nurse practitioners.

Course Structure
The course consists of seven units - six theoretical units and an internship (24 credit points) 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. Students will be required to attend on-campus workshops normally for a total of five days scheduled during the February orientation week and the mid-semester break in September.

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

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

Part-time course structure (February entry)

Year 1 - Semester 1
NSN422 Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Extended Nursing Practice
NSN423 Nurse Practitioner Role Development

Year 1 - Semester 2
NSN424 Evidence Based Practice
NSN426 Advanced Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Speciality Nursing Practice

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
Elective*

* The elective is a 12 credit point unit approved by the course coordinator

NS86 Elective List

MNursingSc (NursePrac) electives
HLN405 Qualitative Research
HLN711 Advanced Qualitative Methods
HLN720 Clinical Education in Health
NSN424 Evidence Based Practice
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: 2012 SEM-1 and 2012 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: 2012 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: 2012 SEM-1 and 2012 SEM-2

NSN421 ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS IN EXTENDED PRACTICE
This unit focuses on the scientific basis, processes and procedures for advanced concepts in clinical decision making. It covers the skills and principles of health assessment with specific focus on pattern recognition and diagnostics; ordering and interpreting laboratory tests; ordering and interpreting imaging investigations. The unit also explores the activities and processes for making and accepting referrals with other health professionals.
Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

NSN422 PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS IN EXTENDED NURSING PRACTICE
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 and External  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

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 and External  
**Teaching period:** 2011 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 and External  
**Teaching period:** 2012 SEM-2

**NSN425 NURSE PRACTITIONER INTERNSHIP**

This unit follows on from NSN422 Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Speciality 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 and External  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-2

**NSN426 ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS IN SPECIALITY NURSING PRACTICE**

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 and External  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-2 and 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:** 2012 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.
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: 2012 SEM-1 and 2012 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: 2012 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  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2012 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  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2012 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: 2012 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: 2012 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: 2012 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: 2012 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: 2012 SEM-2