



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DISCIPLINE OF NURSING

Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Intensive Care Nursing)

Overview

This program aims to equip registered nurses with the theoretical and practical skills required for nursing in a modern intensive care unit. Nurses completing this program will have a wide range of skills and knowledge to manage critically ill patients admitted with respiratory, cardiac and neurological conditions amongst many others. This program has a significant focus on practical skills acquisition while encouraging problem solving approaches to clinical situations.

The Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science provides graduates with a rigorous grounding in theoretical knowledge and clinical skills, necessary to be able to care for the critically ill within intensive care and high dependency units.

Students will also graduate with a sound knowledge and understanding in invasive and non invasive ventilator management, respiratory failure, arterial blood gas interpretation, chest x-ray interpretation, ECG and rhythm interpretation, arrhythmia management, advanced life support, haemodynamic monitoring and pulmonary artery, catheter management, psychosocial care, electrical safety, intra-aortic balloon care, major burns care, renal failure and dialysis, theories management, of neurological injury and monitoring devices, multiple trauma, envenomation and grief and bereavement. This list is not exhaustive and prospective students are welcome to contact the clinical lecturer for further details.

Successful completion of semester I specialty courses is a prerequisite for continuing in the semester II specialty courses.

Teaching Methods

The theoretical and clinical courses are taught within classroom and clinical settings and the program is structured so that tutorials and theory courses often follow one another. For example a lecture on acid base interpretation is followed by a tutorial session in interpretation of blood gas results taken from the clinical setting. A significant aspect of the clinical teaching component occurs at the bedside, a focus that reinforces theory with actual patient situations.

Entry Requirements

The academic plan is restricted to candidates who are registered nurses and who are currently employed for a minimum of 0.6 of full time in an intensive care unit.

Program Duration

This program can be undertaken either full time over one year or part time over two years.

Program Coordinator



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COURSES

Intensive Care Nursing I

Units:	4 units
Teaching Period:	Semester 1
Contact Hours	2 hours per week as required for workshops for 12 weeks plus 300 hours of clinical practice
Content:	This course largely consists of field based learning within the area of Intensive Care Nursing, supported by workshops. It focuses on advanced clinical skill acquisition, based on theoretical frameworks of care through field based learning within the area of Intensive Care nursing.
Assessment:	Clinical Assessment Sheets 50%
	Structured Clinical Assessment 50%
	Clinical skills/Reflective Practice Diary (Pass/Fail)

Intensive Care Nursing II

Units	4 units
Teaching Period:	Semester 2
Contact Hours	2 hours per week as required for workshops for 12 weeks plus 300 hours of clinical practice
Content:	This course builds on the student's previous learning in Intensive Care Nursing I. Similarly it focuses on advanced clinical skill acquisition
Assessment:	Case Study 50%
	Structured Clinical Assessment 50%
	Clinical Skills/Reflective Practice Diary (Pass/Fail)

Nursing & Medical Science In Intensive Care I

Units	4 units
Teaching Period:	Semester 1
Contact Hours	3 hours per week for 12 weeks
Content:	This course builds on the clinical and core courses in the specialty of Intensive Care Nursing. The focus is on physiology, biochemistry, therapeutics and nursing science.
Assessment:	Essay 50%
	Written Examination 50%

Nursing & Medical Science In Intensive Care II

Units	4 units
Teaching Period:	Semester 2
Contact Hours	3 hours per week for 12 weeks
Content:	This course builds on Nursing and Medical Science in Intensive Care Nursing I and the other specialty Intensive Care Courses. The focus is on pathophysiology, physiology, biochemistry, therapeutics and nursing science.
Assessment:	Presentation and Synopsis 50%
	Written Examination 50%

CORE COURSES

Developing Advanced Practice in Health Systems I

Units 4 units
Teaching Period Semester 1 or 2
Contact Hours Flexible learning mode
Content: This course examines contemporary issues related to advanced nursing practice and considers the supports and constraints within which nurses practice. Topics include ethics of care, leadership, advocacy, evidence based practice, health service management, professional standards, health informatics and multicultural health care.

Assessment: Annotated Bibliography (2000 words) 40%
Essay (3000 words) 60%

Developing Advanced Practice in Health Systems II

Units 4 units
Teaching Period Semester 1 or 2
Contact Hours Flexible learning mode
Content: This course examines the evaluation of clinical practice through clinical audit. Students progress through a series of readings and activities that introduce clinical audit and then progressively work through the processes involved in the development, conduct and reporting of an audit of clinical practice.

Assessment: Clinical Audit Proposal (1250 words) 25%
Clinical Audit Report (3750 words) 75%

Focused Reading in Clinical Nursing (for students granted advanced standing)

Units: 4
Teaching Period: Semester 1 or 2
Contact Hours: Flexible learning mode
Content: This course examines contemporary clinical nursing practice through a critical review of the literature with a focus on intensive care nursing practice. Students are required to follow a protocol to ensure scientific rigour and minimise potential bias.

Assessment: Focused Reading Protocol (up to 1500 words) 35%
Focused Reading Report (3000 to 4000 words) 65%

CONTACT DETAILS

For an application form please contact:

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Applications for 2007 close on **Friday 1st of December 2006 (late applications may be considered)**

The cost of the program for Domestic Students is: \$4600, (\$3300 for RAH employees) and \$16,480 for International Students.
