Welcome

Each year UniSA graduates around 700 undergraduate and postgraduate nurses and midwives, around six per cent of all nursing graduates nationally, making UniSA the largest provider in South Australia.

We are very proud of our reputation and achievements in preparing exceptional, qualified professional nurses and midwives to meet the health needs of individuals and communities. Our graduates practise across a variety of professional fields working as clinicians, educators, administrators, researchers and leaders both nationally and internationally.

We have invested considerable resources to ensure that student learning is the best that it can be with innovative curricula to produce graduates with the knowledge and skills needed by the health industry, now and into the future.

The School is staffed by an outstanding group of academics, clinicians and leaders in their field who have a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and strive to provide the highest quality education.

Our staff are committed to engaging in quality research to generate new knowledge that is practice relevant and translational.

Carol Grech
Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery
Our finger is on the Industry’s pulse.

All clinical teaching staff at the University of South Australia combine teaching with industry experience.

Take Kate Taylor. She combines her work as a Registered Midwife in the Birthing and Assessment Unit at the Lyell McEwin Hospital with her role as a Clinical Facilitator teaching UniSA’s future midwives.

So what’s practised one day is taught the next. It’s one of the reasons our students graduate work-ready.

“The School of Nursing and Midwifery understands that quality teaching and industry partnerships go hand in hand. Therefore the School works collaboratively across all health care services to design industry-informed curriculum and provide clinical placements that produce work-ready graduates.”

Dr Jennifer Fereday - Chairperson and Alumnus, School of Nursing and Midwifery, External Nursing Advisory Group

UniSA is committed to practical engagement with industry and the professions. We have clinical agreements with all local health networks, major hospitals, private health providers, rural health networks, aged care services and mental health services, including the not-for-profit sector.

274

Number of providers we place nursing and midwifery students with across Australia.

Acknowledgement of Country

UniSA respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Barngala peoples’ spiritual relationship with their Country. We also acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal peoples, past and present.

Find out more about the University’s commitment to reconciliation at: unisa.edu.au/RAP
Collaboration is key for community-focused research

What inspires Nicholas Procter’s research? In a word, it’s all about “people”. It’s about making important human connections to be translated into tangible outcomes at the point of care.

Nicholas’ collaborative approach sees him teach, advise governments and collaborate with community organisations on mental health care research.

Currently working on projects with government including SA Health and the Commonwealth Department of Health, and community-based organisations such as Minimisation of Suicide Harm (MOSHI) and Mind Australia, Nicholas is passionate about, and effective at, translating mental health nursing research into practical application.

“Clinical leaders tell me that they need research that is applied and interventionist. They also need graduates with practical experience, skills and confidence to put research into practice.”

As an educator, Nicholas is actively helping shape those graduates, teaching a mix of undergraduate and postgraduate mental health courses and masterclasses. Nicholas also completed the first mental health nursing undergraduate textbook title published by the prestigious Cambridge University Press in its 500 year history.

“Ultimately, I am inspired by the people who need mental health care and the next generation of health professionals willing and able to provide it.”
Postgraduate specialisations; pathways to higher degree qualifications

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has a strong commitment to excellence in teaching, research and learning. With undergraduate, postgraduate and research programs in nursing, midwifery and health, our innovative curriculum produces industry-ready graduates equipped to meet future health needs.

With specialty postgraduate programs, we meet industry needs head on. And with pathways from undergraduate right through to higher degrees by research, we foster lifelong learning and professional development.

Health professionals with relevant qualifications can have a pathway into our higher degree by research program.

Masters programs by:
- Coursework/Thesis
- Research

Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma

Honours

Bachelor of Nursing

Doctor of Philosophy

Post Doctoral Research Careers

Honours

Bachelor of Midwifery
Young and highly ranked.
The University of South Australia is ranked in the world’s top 50 under 50 years of age in both the 2014/15 QS (42) and Times Higher Education (49) world university rankings.

Different students have different needs.
Our programs are offered in flexible modes of study. Regardless of whether students study internally or externally they can access course materials, readings and learning activities at any time through the University’s online Personal Learning Environment.

Postgraduate qualified.
Over 15 per cent of our students are completing postgraduate programs.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery is the largest provider of undergraduate and postgraduate nursing and midwifery training places in South Australia producing around 700 graduates, including over 100 postgraduate graduates, annually. We provide state-of-the-art teaching facilities at the City East campus in the heart of Adelaide’s picturesque CBD precinct.
Diversity brings perspective.

A diverse student population means students have the opportunity to gain global and cultural understanding, ideas and insights direct from their peers.

Research related to learning and simulation.

Clinical trials and adaptation of technology and patient data systems are undertaken in an authentic clinically-led simulated health service.

Cross-cultural learning: Vietnam and Malaysia study tours.

We prepare students for a diverse modern workplace with learning opportunities that extend across the globe, such as the Vietnam and Malaysia study tours which were attended by 24 students in 2014.

World-class education.

World-class education calls for world-class facilities. Simulation labs used in teaching include:

- Practice Nurse Unit
- Emergency Department
- High Dependancy Unit
- Day Surgery/Recovery Unit
- Medical Unit
- Midwifery/Antenatal Unit
- Paediatric Unit
- Home Setting.

Ready for the real world.

91 per cent of UniSA graduates going on to full-time work are employed in a professional occupation within four months of completing their degree.
State-of-the-art simulated hospital and health services integrate with the virtual community of Horizon, providing our students with the opportunity to experience practice in a variety of multimedia high-tech settings.

Our facilities replicate authentic metropolitan and rural hospitals and health services. Under the guidance of senior registered nurses and midwives, students are clinically prepared for a seamless transition into clinical practice.
Quality teaching and research are core to our success

We ensure our students are equipped for the workplace with an outstanding education. How do we do it?

Competence is key. As the first university in Australia to utilise the National Competency-Assessment Schedule as the tool to assess nursing students to meet the required practice standards for registration, we are actively ensuring the quality of how students are prepared and assessed.

Expert teaching staff. 59 per cent of the School’s staff hold a PhD and all are committed to creating exceptional, qualified and professional nurses and midwives.

Accredited programs. All programs leading to entry to practice are fully accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
Our professoriate

Under the leadership of the Head of School, Professor Carol Grech, the professoriate drives the School of Nursing and Midwifery’s strategic direction, research agenda and key partnerships.

Professor Carol Grech

Carol is the Head of School at the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Carol’s portfolio encompasses academic leadership to the School in all aspects of the University’s Teaching and Learning Framework, including curriculum development, pedagogy, student-centred learning, flexible delivery and graduate qualities. Carol is also an active researcher who leads the School’s Safety and Quality in Research Group and is the editor of the Australian Critical Care journal. She has expertise in curriculum design, implementation and accreditation and has coordinated the development and review of a number of award and non-award programs offered locally and transnationally.

Professor Mary Steen

Mary is the Chair of the Mothers, Babies and Families Research Group and facilitates the promotion of research and scholarly activities both nationally and internationally. Mary’s research interests include: raising the profile of midwifery care and research, maternal health and well-being, antenatal and postnatal exercises, active birth and natural pain management options, holistic approaches to birth, managing emotions and family relationships, parenting, family violence, involving fathers in maternity care, digital communication and technologies for maternity service.
Associate Professor Rachael Vernon

Rachael is the Associate Head at the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Through her research, she has led debate in Australia, New Zealand and internationally, about the standards required for nursing education and the regulatory mechanisms required to protect the public. Rachael has extensive experience in the area of evaluation research and the application of blended learning approaches, problem-based curricula and Moodle-based learn online systems. She leads the teaching, learning and education research portfolio including overseeing the implementation of the School’s academic programs, their development, evaluation and compliance with internal and external accreditation authorities. In 2010, Rachael was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship for research, the first New Zealand nurse in 33 years to be awarded this honour.

Professor Nicholas Procter

Nicholas is the Chair: Mental Health Nursing and Convener of the Mental Health and Substance Use Research Group, Sansom Institute for Health Research. Nicholas leads a program of policy relevant and consumer focused mental health research and community engagement. The strategic purpose of this work is to demonstrate through research and example, how much consumers, clinicians, policy makers and the academic faculty can achieve working together. Deep scholarship, deep connectivity and diffusion of the insights are at the heart of his current work program.

Professor Adrian Esterman

Adrian is Foundation Chair of Biostatics in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and holds adjunct appointments at Flinders, Adelaide and James Cook universities. He co-leads the Cancer Care research group in the School, and is a recognised expert in cancer epidemiology. His career includes seven years at the World Health Organization based in Geneva and Copenhagen, and 16 years as Principal Epidemiologist for the SA Department of Health. Adrian is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, and a member of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia. He has over 250 publications with an h-index of 41, and has been a Chief Investigator on many NHMRC grants in recent years. As well as undertaking research, Adrian supervises a large number of PhD students. Apart from cancer, his research interests include supportive care, chronic diseases and Indigenous health.

Kay is internationally recognised for her health services research and her expertise in mixed methods approaches. She is particularly well-regarded for her critical analytical skills. Kay co-leads the Cancer Care research group in the School, is a member of the Sansom Institute for Health Research, a Board Director of NPS – MedicineWise, and a Chief Investigator of a successful cohort study: the North West Adelaide Health (Cohort) Study. The programs of research that Kay is involved with seek to ensure significant advancement in knowledge and its translation to prevent cancer where possible and to improve the lives of people living with and surviving cancer. A key area of interest is exploring how best to assist healthy ageing for people living with multi-morbidity and cancer.

Associate Professor Kay Price

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One of the key benefits of a large nursing and midwifery school with a strong history is the ability to attract and retain internationally-renowned researchers.

The University of South Australia’s School of Nursing and Midwifery has professors in midwifery and mental health who are directly connected to industry.

In addition, it has a research group dedicated to safety and quality in health care delivery.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery received $4 million in 2013/14.

We lead

$3.6 million for mental health

Attracting competitive grants to support research is key to the School’s success. Professor Nicholas Procter has received multiple research grants, including $3.6 million on the Mental Health in Multicultural Australia (MHiMA) Project Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Consortium.

$4 million

Amount of funding the School of Nursing and Midwifery received in 2013/14.

UniSA’s community-engaged research: Translating research into meaningful health care improvements.

Much of our research is undertaken in conjunction with a range of industry partners and with a multidisciplinary group of research collaborators.

We focus on research outcomes relevant to clinical translation national health priority areas, where nurses and midwives can demonstrate improved health outcomes, consumer satisfaction and economic savings.
Professor Mary Steen is driven by the need to provide the best care possible based on the best available evidence.

Award-winning Professor Mary Steen has written over 70 peer reviewed articles and 12 chapters, edited and contributed to seven books; and has now brought her extensive experience to the University of South Australia, chairing the Sansom Institute for Health Research’s Mothers, Babies and Families Health group.

“Research informs education and then education informs clinical practice. I am driven by the need to provide the best care possible based on the best available evidence.”

Having just completed piloting the introduction of the 4R’s (Risk, Recognition, Repair and Relief) for Perineal Trauma workshops for student midwives, Mary is embarking on a research study to investigate whether this educational approach and method improves student midwives’ confidence and competence in perineal care.

“Introducing these new innovative workshops to student midwives and evaluating the impact provides a valuable link from the classroom to clinical practice.”
Rural and regional

Nursing graduate Martins Strikis is passionate about rural health. UniSA helped him find that passion.

“My involvement in the rural health club at university provided me with a different view into the health care system and offered great networking opportunities around Australia.”

Now working at Mount Gambier Community Mental Health as a registered nurse, Martins is pursuing postgraduate studies in mental health nursing at UniSA after receiving the Country Health SA Professor Margaret Tobin Mental Health Scholarship.

74,000
The number of rural placement hours our nursing and midwifery students completed in 2014.

Programs offered at Whyalla and Mt Gambier campuses are specifically designed to suit the needs of regional Australia.
Contact us

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