



Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)

Program code	IMNP
Program length	1 year full-time or part-time equivalent
Program study mode	Offered principally online
Location	City East Campus
Fees	Commonwealth supported (HECS-HELP based)
SATAC code	Non-SATAC program
Minimum entry	A four year undergraduate degree or equivalent*, eligibility for registration as a nurse or mental health nurse
Entry	Apply directly to the University of South Australia www.unisa.edu.au/applyonline

School of Nursing and Midwifery

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Email:
nursing.enquiries@unisa.edu.au
Web:
www.unisa.edu.au/nur

Where will the program take me?

This program will prepare nurses to advance and extend their scope of practice. The program develops students' scholarship, clinical and professional expertise and prepares them as nurse practitioners so that they may provide comprehensive primary health care in a variety of practice fields. In addition, students will be challenged to extend their expertise as educators, counsellors, consultants, managers, researchers, advocates, mentors and autonomous, innovative practitioners.

What does the program involve?

The concepts of nursing, health and illness are studied with a focus on assessment of health status, identifying health and illness risks and needs, formulating appropriate differential diagnosis based on comprehensive assessment data, establishing mutually acceptable health and treatment plans that maximise outcomes for clients, family and/or the community.

Core courses also provide opportunity for students to explore the nurse practitioner role in investigative (invasive and non-invasive) procedures, identifying and prescribing appropriate pharmacological agents and non-pharmacological interventions, legal and ethical issues pertaining to autonomous and multi-disciplinary practice, furthering the scholarship of nursing practice by defining research questions, participating in and conducting research, and critically evaluating their role as advanced practitioners in the delivery of health care, inclusive of monitoring and ensuring the quality of health care provision.

Project courses provide opportunity for students to negotiate in-depth study in their field of practice to become advanced practitioners and further extend their specialist knowledge, scholarship and leadership in nursing practice.

How do I gain entry?

All applicants must be registered nurses holding a current practising certificate in their own State or Territory.

Applicants wishing to pursue an interest in the **mental health** area within the project component of the program will need to be registered psychiatric nurses holding a current practising certificate.

*Applicants will be required to hold a 108 unit undergraduate degree or diploma and a 36 unit graduate diploma or graduate degree in the specialty field they wish to study or the equivalent of four years study at a similar level. They will also be expected to be specialist nurses with at least 5 years experience in their specialist area.

Fees

This is currently a program for eligible Commonwealth supported students. Students should check details about fees at www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/ by typing in the program code.

Professional Recognition

Entry to this program requires applicants to be registered nurses or holding current practising certificates. The program itself does not lead to registration or provide further recognition with the Nurses Board of South Australia.

This program is accredited by the Nurses Board of Western Australia as suitable for Nurse Practitioner authorisation.

The Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) program consists of 36 units of study which can be undertaken over 1 year full-time or part-time equivalent.

Program schedule

	Course code	Unit value of courses
Full-time mode		
First Year – First half of year (Study Period 2)		
Social, Ethico-Legal and Organisational Frameworks (see note 1)	WELF 5026	4.5
Advanced Health Assessment and Nursing Diagnostics	NURS 5033	4.5
Pharmacology for Advanced Practice	NASC 5002	9.0
First Year - Second half of year (Study Period 5)		
Evidence Based Practice	HLTH 5122	4.5
Project 1A	NURS 5069	4.5
Project 2	NURS 5070	9.0
Part-time mode		
First Year – First half of year (Study Period 2)		
Social, Ethico-Legal and Organisational Frameworks (see note 1)	WELF 5026	4.5
Advanced Health Assessment and Nursing Diagnostics	NURS 5033	4.5
First Year - Second half of year (Study Period 5)		
Pharmacology for Advanced Practice	NASC 5002	9.0
Second Year – First half of year (Study Period 2)		
Evidence Based Practice	HLTH 5122	4.5
Project 1A	NURS 5069	4.5
Second Year - Second half of year (Study Period 5)		
Project 2	NURS 5070	9.0

Notes

1. Social, Ethico-Legal and Organisational Frameworks is a pre-requisite (or co-requisite with Advanced Health Diagnostics) for all other courses in the Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner).

Further information:

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Applications

Applications **MUST** be submitted online - www.unisa.edu.au/applyonline

For more information on the program and its courses, including access to course descriptions please visit www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/ and type in the relevant course code.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery Postgraduate Programs home page is located at: www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/postgrad.asp

Course descriptions (see previous page for course codes)

Social, Ethico-Legal and Organisational Frameworks

This course emphasises both the theoretical and practical aspects of the ethical, legal and organisational issues that impact on the role of the nurse practitioner. Students will explore broad management aspects, examine legal and ethical issues pertaining to nurses working in private and interdependent practice, and investigate health and social policy. Students will also have the opportunity to explore social, ethico-legal and organisational factors which are of particular relevance to their own specialty field of practice. For example, those students wishing to acquire admitting privileges at public and/or private health care agencies will be guided in particular study pathways.

Advanced Health Assessment and Nursing Diagnostics

This course builds upon students' knowledge of assessment, investigation and diagnostics. A holistic health framework will provide the basis for health assessment and students will be encouraged to explore a range of advanced health assessment activities including clinical examination, psychological assessment and environmental analysis.

Students will be encouraged to explore and develop comprehensive skills in specific assessment activities pertaining to their speciality and use this knowledge as the basis for formulating client and/or community centred interventions and treatment orders. Where relevant to their area of practice, students will also have the opportunity to investigate the nurse practitioner role in undertaking and analysing additional assessment data such as laboratory findings (biochemistry, haematology, histology and toxicology), medical radiations and ultrasound investigations.

Pharmacology for Advanced Practice

This course provides the opportunity for students to extend their knowledge of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics. Students will examine in-depth, common medications used across a range of practice specialties, as well as explore major drug classifications which they are likely to utilise within their own specialty practice client population. Students will also examine contemporary legal requirements for prescribing various medications and explore the nurse practitioner role pertaining to clinical pharmacology.

Evidence Based Practice

A research based course is also core to the program and provides students with the opportunity to critically analyse research and explore how and why research can extend practice. The course will provide students with practice skills in collecting and analysing data and collating and summarising evidence with reference to the hierarchy of evidence and the quality of research publications. Furthermore, students will focus on clinical limitations and likely developments for evidence based approaches within health research and practice.

Project 1A and Project 2

These courses enable registered nurses to extend their scope of practice by undertaking in-depth theoretical and clinical exploration in their field of practice. Students will identify, in collaboration with an academic supervisor, specific negotiated study to advance their knowledge and skills as a nurse practitioner in their particular area of practice.

Prerequisite(s): Students are required to complete Advanced Health Assessment and Nursing Diagnostics; Pharmacology for Advanced Practice and Evidence Based Practice* before commencing Project 1A or Project 2.
*Evidence Based Practice is taken concurrently with Project 1A and Project 2 for full-time enrolment mode.