



University of South Australia

School of Nursing and Midwifery – Postgraduate Coursework Programs

Terms used at the University of South Australia

Program - This describes the complete award, for example, Graduate Diploma in Nursing or Master of Nursing.

Course - These are the subjects of study that make up an award. For example, in the Graduate Certificate which has 18 units total can be made up of 2 X 9 unit courses; or 1 X 9 units and 2 X 4.5 unit courses; or 4 X 4.5 unit courses.

Unit – The number of points assigned to a course that indicate the size (number of hours and assessment weighting) required to complete the course. In our programs, these are usually 4.5 units or 9.0 units.

Study Period - These were formerly called semesters (and still are in many universities). At UniSA although there are 7 Study Periods in the academic year, our postgraduate programs use **Study Period 2** (formerly Semester 1) and **Study Period 5** (formerly Semester 2).

Course Coordinator - This is the person who has the administrative responsibility for the course. In the postgraduate courses, the course coordinator commonly teaches the course as well. Your course information book will provide you with details about the course coordinator (and the name(s) and contact details of any other teaching staff).

Program Director - This is the person who has administrative responsibility for the programs. For the postgraduate coursework programs in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the Program Director – Dr Helen Calabretto is responsible for the

Graduate Certificate in Nursing
Graduate Diploma in Nursing
Graduate Diploma in Mental Health / Mental Health Nursing
Master of Nursing / Midwifery / Mental Health
Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

(see Appendix 1 for a diagram about the programs)

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Specialisation) – this is an 18 unit program which is 6 months full-time or part time equivalent. It is comprised of the specialisation courses.

Depending on the specialisation you choose, this will be either:-

4 X 4.5 unit courses **OR** 2 X 9 unit courses **OR** 1 X 9 units and 2 X 4.5 unit courses

Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Specialisation) – this is a 36 unit program which is 1 year full time or part time equivalent. It is comprised of:-

18 units of the specialisation courses

AND

2 X Core courses - Collaborative Approaches to Health (9 units) and Applying Research to Nursing and Midwifery Practice (4.5 units)

AND

1 X Option course (4.5 units) where you can choose from one of a range of courses

Master of Nursing / Mental Health / Midwifery – this is a 54 unit program which is 1.5 years full time or part time equivalent. It is comprised of:-

18 units of the specialisation courses

AND

2 X Core courses - Collaborative Approaches to Health (9 units) and Applying Research to Nursing and Midwifery Practice (4.5 units)

AND

1 X Option course (4.5 units) where you can choose from one of a range of courses.

AND

Either 2 X 9 unit Project courses (taken by most students) **OR** 2 X 9 unit Thesis courses (taken only by Research Methodologies specialisation students).

Specialised fields of practice – these relate to the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Specialisation); Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Specialisation); or Master of Nursing

The following specialisations are currently offered:-

- Cardiovascular Nursing
- Critical Care Nursing - pending a minimum 15 students
- Health and Ageing
- Immunisation
- Leadership and Management
- Negotiated Studies*
- Nurse Education
- Research Methodologies

* Negotiated studies **must be approved** by the Program Director and is an alternative to selecting one the specialisations listed above. Students undertaking Negotiated Studies select 18 units of study from any of the specialty areas offered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery or from Professional Certificates offered by the School; or from postgraduate courses offered within the Division of Health Sciences.

Graduate Diploma in Mental Health / Mental Health Nursing – this is a 36 unit program which is 1 year full time or part time equivalent. This is a program for registered nurses and other health professionals (for example, social workers, occupational therapists, podiatrists, physiotherapists, psychologists and midwives) who would like to extend their knowledge and skills in the area of mental health. Registered Nurses completing the program are eligible for registration as a mental health nurse and undertake clinical placement as part of the program.

Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) – this is 36 unit program which is 1 year full-time or part time equivalent. The program is designed to prepare nurses who have been practising in their area of specialisation for at least 5 years to advance and extend their scope of practice in preparation for future authorisation as a Nurse Practitioner.

Frequently Asked Questions

I don't have a degree in nursing but I am a hospital trained registered nurse with many years of experience. Will I be able to do one of your programs?

You should definitely apply. We recognise the knowledge and skills you have acquired formally and informally in your career and welcome you into our programs. There is also online and face-to-face support to assist you in the academic side of your study.

Do I have to be a nurse to do your programs and how much experience do you need to have as an RN?

Yes – for most programs you do need to be a registered nurse with at least one year of clinical experience as a registered nurse.

Exceptions:-

1. For the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health you do not have to be a registered nurse.
2. For the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing you need to be a registered nurse but you do not have to have a year's experience as an RN.
3. For the Master of Midwifery, applicants who are not also registered nurses may apply for this program (see the IMNG program home page for further information about this)

I have completed other postgraduate qualifications. Will they be recognised and how will I apply for credit?

Previous qualifications can be considered for "credit" for courses in our programs on a case by case basis. If you receive credit of a course, you will not be required to undertake any aspects of the course for which you have been awarded credit. As a rule of thumb, no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of a program can be awarded as credit and the courses for which credit is sought must have been completed in the last 10 years. The courses for which credit is sought must equate closely with one the courses in our program in terms of length and assessment.

On the program home page which you can link to from the Postgraduate website

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/postgrad.asp> are notes and rules relating to the specific program. You can discuss credit applications with the Program Director - Dr Helen Calabretto.

When you have been accepted into one of our programs, you can apply for credit for courses you have taken *at other universities* using this form

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/studysas/forms/CreditTransfer.pdf>

If you are applying for credit for courses you have previously taken *at UniSA*, it is known as Course Substitution and you use this form

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/studysas/forms/CourseSubstitutionForm.pdf>

These applications will be sent to the Program Director – Dr Helen Calabretto for approval.

I have heard people talk about "exemption". How does that differ from "credit"?

This is recognition of prior learning where you will seek exemption from some part(s) of a course such as an assessment item based on previous learning. You will still enrol into the course and negotiate exemption with the **Course Coordinator** and use this form

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/studysas/forms/exemption.pdf>

What is GradStart?

The postgraduate coursework programs use an online application process called GradStart which is administered by the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC). You will see a direct link to the GradStart website for each of the programs on the postgraduate website

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/postgrad.asp> or you can use this direct link

<http://www.satac.edu.au/uniwebGS/sect02/default.asp> You may have previously applied through SATAC or the equivalent organisation in your state for undergraduate programs.

GradStart is available from August 11th 2008 until January 31st 2009 for the 2009 Academic Year.

Should I study full time or part time?

This is entirely up to you and will depend on your work and other commitments. Most postgraduate students in our programs work full-time and study part-time.

How do I decide whether I should do a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma?

The programs are 'nested' which means that you can come in at Graduate Certificate level and can add to that qualification to gain a Graduate Diploma in the future. Similarly, if you enrol in a Graduate Diploma and decide to exit the program, as long as you have completed your specialisation courses, you can exit with a Graduate Certificate.

How do I decide whether I should do a Graduate Diploma or a Masters degree?

The programs are 'nested' which means that you can come in at Graduate Diploma level and can add to that qualification to gain a Master of Nursing in the future. Similarly, if you enrol in a Masters of Nursing and decide to exit the program, as long as you have completed the required courses, you can exit with a Graduate Diploma.

I have noticed that there is Master of Nursing / Mental Health / Midwifery. How do I know which one to apply for?

If you are a **registered nurse** who meets all the entry requirements you can apply for the Master of Nursing program.

If you have **mental health registration** and meet all the entry requirements you can apply for the Master of Mental Health program. You will receive 18 units of credit (your Mental Health qualification will equate to the specialisation) and your Projects will focus on an area of Mental Health.

If you have **midwifery registration as well as nurse registration** and meet all the entry requirements you can apply for the Master of Midwifery program. You will receive 18 units of credit (your Midwifery qualification will equate to the specialisation) and your Projects will focus on an area of Midwifery. If you have **midwifery registration but are not also a registered nurse**, you will not receive 18 units of credit and will need to negotiate with the Program Director about what courses you will need to study. Your Projects will focus on an area of Midwifery.

Are the programs fee-paying?

The programs are all Commonwealth supported (HECS-HELP) and you can pay back your fees through the tax system or pay your fees upfront and receive 20% discount. The prices are set according to 'bands' which are set by the Federal Government and differ according to discipline, level of study, number of courses and number of units in each course. International students pay full fees – please see

http://www.unisa.edu.au/international/docs/UniSA_2009_PG_Table.pdf

Where can I find further information about fees?

Please follow the link on the postgraduate website

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/postgrad.asp>

Additional information about this can be obtained from the Department of Education, Science and Training (federal government) website:-

<http://www.goingtouni.gov.au/Main/FeesLoansAndScholarships/Postgraduate/Default.htm>

Yes – I want to undertake a program. What should I do next?

You need to apply to GradStart (through the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre)

You will see a direct link to the GradStart website for each of the programs on the postgraduate website <http://www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/postgrad.asp> or you can use this direct link to the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) <http://www.satac.edu.au/> There are individual SATAC codes for each of the programs and specialisations. Please refer to the relevant Program brochure to check for the individual SATAC codes.

GradStart is available from August 11th 2008 until January 31st 2009 for the 2009 Academic Year.

After you have accepted the place you will be sent information about enrolment

After you have accepted the place, you will be sent information with instructions about how to enrol using a process called Enrol Online (this is a university process and nothing to do with your GradStart application). You will be able to check Enrolment Advice documents <http://www.unisa.edu.au/nur/eadocs/default.asp> for your particular program and specialisation so that you know which courses to enrol in.

Campus Central at the City East Campus can help you with this process if necessary.

This website has useful information for new students

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/newstudents/default.asp>

Can I enrol immediately after I have accepted a place?

If you are offered and accept a place between August and December 2008, you will have to wait until January 2009 to enrol (the date enrolments open will be given to you). It is important that you don't forget to enrol in January if you have had an early offer.

What is the difference between online and external?

Online means that all of the course materials including Course Information book, Study Guide and Readings are online.

External means that you will receive a hard copy version of these materials in the post.

All of our courses have some online component; some are completely online; and some are a combination of online and external. In some courses there is a choice between online and external.

When can I start studying if my course is all online?

The online environment is accessible from Week 1 of the Study Period and sometimes earlier.

You can access the online learning area from the course home page. Click **Learning resources for this course**, then **Online Learning Resources** (or similar name).

You will need to use your university User name and Password to gain access to the Online Learning Resources.

I have seen a link on the Postgraduate website to Professional Certificates. What are they and how do they relate to the postgraduate programs?

Professional Certificates are 4.5 unit or 9.0 unit courses that can be taken by individuals who are not enrolled in any of the postgraduate programs.

All but one of these courses can also be taken as part of the postgraduate programs under the normal Commonwealth HECS-HELP fee structure. Please note that these are the 2008 prices which have not been updated yet (as at July 08) for 2009.

Professional Certificate	Number of units	<i>Taken as part of the postgraduate programs</i>
Advanced Health Assessment and Nursing Diagnostics	9 units	<i>Can also be taken as a course in the Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)</i>
Alcohol and other Drugs	4.5 units	<i>Can also be taken as an Option course in the Graduate Diploma or Master of Nursing or as part of Negotiated Studies</i>
Immunisation	9.0 units	<i>Can also be taken as a specialisation in the nested program)</i>
Pharmacology for Advanced Practice	9 units	<i>Can also be taken as a course in the Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)</i>
Wound Management	9 units	<i>Can also be taken as a course in the Graduate Diploma or Master of Nursing (Negotiated Studies)</i>
Allergy Nursing	9 units	

How do I find out more about Professional Certificates?

You can link to the Professional Certificates from a link on the School of Nursing and Midwifery – Postgraduate website <http://www.unisa.edu.au/nur/programs/postgrad.asp> (on the left hand banner). The Course Coordinator's name is linked from each Professional Certificate webpage so you can contact them if you have any specific questions.

The Program Director for the Professional Certificates is Dr Carol Grech
carol.grech@unisa.edu.au



School of Nursing and Midwifery – Postgraduate Programs

Nested Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Master of Nursing / Mental Health / Midwifery

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Specialisation) Total of 18 units (6 months full time or part-time equivalent)	Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Specialisation) Total of 36 units (1 year full time or part-time equivalent)	Master of Nursing / Mental Health / Midwifery Total of 54 units (1.5 years full time or part-time equivalent)
18 units of courses are undertaken in the specialisation or negotiated studies	18 units of courses are undertaken in the specialisation or negotiated studies	18 units of courses are undertaken in the specialisation or negotiated studies
	Option (4.5 units) – choice of a range of courses	Option (4.5 units) – choice of a range of courses
	Collaborative Approaches to Health (9 units)	Collaborative Approaches to Health (9 units)
	Applying Research to Nursing and Midwifery Practice (4.5 units)	Applying Research to Nursing and Midwifery Practice (4.5 units)
		Project 1 (9 units) and Project 2 (9 units)
		OR
		Thesis 1 (9 units) and Thesis 2 (9 units)

Graduate Diploma in Mental Health / Mental Health Nursing

Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Total of 36 units (1 year full time or part-time equivalent)	Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing Total of 36 units (1 year full time or part-time equivalent)
4 X 9 unit courses	4 X 9 unit courses
Suitable for any social workers, psychologists, youth workers, correctional services workers, community health workers	For RNs, leads to registration as a Mental Health Nurse; has a clinical component in each course that may be taken as part of current employment in a mental health area.
Non- nursing and nursing students study together as a multi-disciplinary group	

Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner)

Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) Total of 36 units (1 year full time or part-time equivalent)
Entry – 108 unit Bachelor degree, Graduate Diploma in the specialist area, at least 5 years experience in the area of specialisation for which the student will seek authorisation as a nurse practitioner
All courses are compulsory