



MASTER OF NURSING (NURSE PRACTITIONER)

Information for Prospective Students

The Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) Program is accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

It is strongly recommended that intending applicants familiarise themselves with the requirements for endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner which can be located on the NMBA website at <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>

Applicants are advised that completion of this program requires 300 hours of supernumerary integrated professional practice. For the purposes of this program, 'supernumerary' is where the student undertakes supervised practice outside their employed position or when they are not counted in the staffing roster. Applicants and their employers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the *Explanatory Note: Interpretation and explanation of supernumerary integrated professional practice for nurse practitioner students* (ANMAC, 2020) which can be located on the ANMAC website at <https://www.anmac.org.au/>

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Application Checklist

Application to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) at UniSA is made via SATAC. In addition to the application the following documentation must also be uploaded.

<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum Vitae	A comprehensive summary of your professional experience and achievements. For tips on preparing a suitable CV, refer to the criteria on page 3.
<input type="checkbox"/> Referee Statement of Advanced Practice	Declaration in support of your advanced practice signed by two referees. Complete the form on page 6.
<input type="checkbox"/> Employer Confirmation of Clinical Support	Your employer must confirm that they support you undertaking integrated professional practice within their organisation. Complete the form on page 7.
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Support Team – Declaration of Support	Each member of your proposed Clinical Support Team must declare their support for you. Complete the form on page 8.
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Support Team – Curriculum Vitae	You must provide a CV for each member of your Clinical Support Team.

Curriculum Vitae

All applicants for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) must provide a comprehensive CV that includes:

- Evidence of meeting all entry requirements to be admitted to the program, including:
 - current general registration as a registered nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
 - a postgraduate qualification from a recognised higher education institution in a relevant clinical field
 - a minimum of four years full-time equivalent experience as a Registered Nurse, including two years full-time equivalent as a Registered Nurse in a clinical field and two years full-time equivalent at an advanced practice level in the same clinical field
- Clear evidence of advanced practice

The following may assist applicants in preparing their CV:

Definition of Advanced Practice

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) defines advanced practice as “*a continuum along which nurses develop their professional knowledge, clinical reasoning and judgement, skills and behaviours to higher levels of capability (that is recognisable). Nurses practising at an advanced level incorporate professional leadership, education, and research into their clinically based practice. Their practice is effective and safe. They work within a generalist or specialist context and they are responsible and accountable in managing people who have complex health care requirements.*

Advanced nursing practice is a level of practice and not a role. It is acknowledged that advanced nursing practice is specific to the individual within their context of practice (enrolled nurse, registered nurse or nurse practitioner)”. (NMBA 2016).

Description of an Advanced Registered Nurse

An Advanced Registered Nurse:

1. Uses best available evidence, observations, and experience to plan, conduct and evaluate practice in ways which incorporate complexity and/or a multiplicity of elements
2. Uses health and/or nursing models as a basis for practice
3. Manages outcomes in complex clinical situations
4. Anticipates and meets the needs of individuals and groups with complex conditions and/or in high risk situations
5. Integrates and evaluates knowledge and resources from different disciplines and health care teams to effectively meet the health care needs of individuals and groups
6. Seeks out and integrates evidence from a range of sources to improve health care outcomes
7. Safely interprets and modifies guidelines and practice to meet the health care needs of individuals and groups
8. Leads and guides the nursing team to promote optimum standards of care
9. Shares information and resources to initiate improvements and/or innovation in nursing practice
10. Fosters and initiates research-based nursing practice
11. Acts as a mentor and role model for nurses and other health professionals
12. Contributes to development of nursing knowledge, standards, and resources through active participation at the broader professional level
13. Facilitates education of individuals and groups, students, nurses, and other members of the health care team
14. Acts as a resource for other nurses and members of the health care team
15. Provides nursing as a resource to others through their capacity to practice outside single contexts and episodes of practice.

Adapted from Australian Nursing Federation, Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse, 2005.

Clinical Support Team

Students will work with relevant team members in their clinical practice on a daily basis. Members of the clinical support team should be available to provide a minimum of 1 hour per week mentoring/ focused supervision.

The broad role of the clinical support team is to support the student to gain integrated professional practice experiences that:

- facilitate knowledge and skills development in patient centred care that is consistent with the principles of primary health care and complements the student's specialty skills and knowledge.
- reflect the major health priorities specific to the student's area of practice
- include opportunities for the development of knowledge and skills relevant to advanced collaborative practice
- facilitate achievement of the Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice

Each student will already have nursing expertise in their relevant specialty field of health care. The purpose of the integrated professional practice experience is to enable students to deepen and extend their knowledge and practice skills to meet the requirements of nurse practitioner practice as demonstrated by their achievement of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice (NMBA, 2021).

Students in the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) are required to undertake 300 hours of supernumerary integrated professional practice experience linked to a number of courses in the program as mandated by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) in Standard 3.6 of the Nurse Practitioner Accreditation Standards (ANMAC 2015).

Each student's clinical support team will provide learning and teaching support through supervision, monitoring, supporting, and reviewing the extended practice aspects of the student's role, including clinical practice reviews, and conducting formative and summative clinical assessments.

The clinical support team will include at a minimum:

- an experienced nurse practitioner in a relevant specialty as the primary clinical support team member
- an experienced medical practitioner within the specialty.

Nursing Team Member(s)

Students are required to develop knowledge, skills, and practices commensurate with the expectations of the nurse practitioner role in the delivery of nursing care in their specialty field of practice. The clinical support nursing team member(s) will be expected to work with the student to maintain this focus and assist them to incorporate their extended care activities into a nursing model of practice. The nurse practitioner member of the clinical support team will meet the legal requirements for the extended practice aspects of the student's activities that relate to the nurse practitioner role, including activities of prescribing, requesting diagnostic tests and referral of patients/clients to other health professionals.

Medical Team Member

The medical member of the clinical support team will meet the legal requirements for the extended practice aspects of the student's activities that relate to the nurse practitioner role, including activities of prescribing, requesting diagnostic tests and referral of patients/clients to other health professionals.

Strategies for clinical learning related to these extended practice activities should be negotiated between the student and clinical support team and may include existing practices such as standing orders for medication management, case conferences led by the student as part of their role in the health care team, and shadowing the student to observe and monitor decision making in these extended areas of practice. Students must practice within the legislated parameters of nursing practice and any activities extending this legislated scope are monitored and supervised by a suitably qualified member of the clinical support team.

Additional Team Members

The clinical support team may also include an advanced practice nurse in the specialty area and other health professionals relevant to the service delivery team in the student's specialty field of practice (such as relevant members of the allied health professions, for example pharmacy). This support team will work with the student to facilitate development of extended clinical practice and decision-making competencies. The mentoring process will enable the student to critically reflect on their capabilities and development and debrief in a supported and safe environment.

Criteria for Selection of Clinical Support Team

- Current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (Nurses) or relevant Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Board (Medical or Allied Health Practitioner)
- Holds a qualification that is higher than or equal to a Master's degree
- At least one nurse team member must be an experienced Nurse Practitioner
- At least one team member must be an experienced medical officer
- Clinical expertise in a relevant field of nursing, medicine, or allied health
- Meets clinical privileges/requirements of the clinical venue of practice
- Educational experience and/or qualifications, particularly in practice-based/clinical education
- Able to supervise and guide the applicant's clinical and professional practice throughout the program
- Commitment to support the applicant in developing their extended clinical competencies in an advanced practice role throughout the program
- Available to communicate regularly with the applicant face to face, by phone and electronically
- Sign a form indicating their agreement with this arrangement
- Provide a comprehensive CV detailing qualifications and experience relevant to the role

Each member of the Clinical Support Team will be approved by the Program Director upon the student's commencement in the program and monitored throughout the duration of the program.

Academic Liaison for Clinical Support Teams

Each student will be assigned an Academic Supervisor employed by the University for the two internship courses. The Academic Supervisor, in conjunction and consultation with the Course Coordinator, is responsible for oversight of the student's academic progress and management of the logistical issues related to the two internship courses. The student will meet regularly with the Academic Supervisor as negotiated. The Academic Supervisor will also act as the university liaison for the clinical support team and be available for meetings and consultations with its members. Arrangements for contact between the Academic Supervisor and the Clinical Support Team will be negotiated at the beginning of the relevant study period.

Useful UniSA resources are listed in each Internship Course Information Book, a copy of which will be provided to each member of the clinical support team.



The Referee Statement must be completed by two referees who are appropriately qualified and can attest to the applicant's advanced practice.

Applicant Details

This section to be completed by the applicant

Given Name		Family Name	
AHPRA Registration		Specialty Area	

Referee Statement of Advanced Practice

This section to be completed by appropriately qualified referees

Advanced Practice

- I declare that the above applicant has demonstrated knowledge, skills and attributes at an advanced practice level as described below:
1. Uses best available evidence, observations, and experience to plan, conduct and evaluate practice in ways which incorporate complexity and/or a multiplicity of elements
 2. Uses health and/or nursing models as a basis for practice
 3. Manages outcomes in complex clinical situations
 4. Anticipates and meets the needs of individuals and groups with complex conditions and/or in high risk situations
 5. Integrates and evaluates knowledge and resources from different disciplines and health care teams to effectively meet the health care needs of individuals and groups
 6. Seeks out and integrates evidence from a range of sources to improve health care outcomes
 7. Safely interprets and modifies guidelines and practice to meet the health care needs of individuals and groups
 8. Leads and guides the nursing team to promote optimum standards of care
 9. Shares information and resources to initiate improvements and/or innovation in nursing practice
 10. Fosters and initiates research-based nursing practice
 11. Acts as a mentor and role model for nurses and other health professionals
 12. Contributes to development of nursing knowledge, standards, and resources through active participation at the broader professional level
 13. Facilitates education of individuals and groups, students, nurses, and other members of the health care team
 14. Acts as a resource for other nurses and members of the health care team
 15. Provides nursing as a resource to others through their capacity to practice outside single contexts and episodes of practice

I consent to being contacted by staff from UniSA to provide a referee statement for the applicant.

Referee 1

Referee's Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Referee's Phone number		Referee's Email	
Referee's Signature		Date	

Referee 2

Referee's Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Referee's Phone number		Referee's Email	
Referee's Signature		Date	



Form 2: Employer Confirmation of Clinical Support

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The Confirmation of Employment and Clinical Support section must be completed by a senior nurse manager who has the authority to confirm organisational support to meet the requirements of the program.

Applicant Details

This section to be completed by the applicant

Given Name		Family Name	
AHPRA Registration		Specialty Area	

Verification of Employment and Statement of Clinical Support

This section to be completed by the Senior Nurse Manager

Confirmation of Employment

Please provide details for the position(s) in which the applicant has been employed as a registered nurse with your organisation, including which position(s) have required them to practise at an advanced level.

Health Institution / Service	Position Held	Start/Finish Date	Hours per week	Advanced Practice Level

Does the applicant's current position involve more than 50% of their time dedicated to direct client care? Yes No

Clinical Support

I confirm that the applicant has the approval of the employing organisation to work in their advanced practice role throughout the program and they will be supported to undertake the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) Program and I attach as evidence a copy of their position description.

The organisation will assist the applicant with:

- the required clinical experience to meet the requirements of the program and support achievement of the NMBA Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice (NMBA, 2016b)
- selection of appropriately qualified clinical mentors, as necessary
- opportunities to meet with their clinical mentors on a regular basis

I understand that I am only confirming support for the applicant's studies and that the organisation is not obliged to make a Nurse Practitioner position available for them.

Senior Nurse Manager Details

Manager's Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Manager's Phone number		Manager's Email	
Manager's Signature		Date	

The clinical support team must include at a minimum:

- an experienced nurse practitioner in a relevant specialty as the primary clinical support team member; and
- an experienced medical practitioner within the specialty area

Applicant Details

This section to be completed by the applicant

Given Name		Family Name	
AHPRA Registration		Specialty Area	

Nurse Practitioner

This section to be completed by a Nurse Practitioner

Declaration of Support

I agree to be part of the Clinical Support team for the applicant for the duration of their enrolment in the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program at the University of South Australia. I will support the applicant to extend their practice skills to meet the NMBA Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice. With the other members of the Clinical Support Team, I agree to assess the student's achievement of the Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice in both formative and summative assessment activities.

I have provided a comprehensive curriculum vitae outlining my qualifications and clinical experience.

Nurse Practitioner Details

Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Work Address:			
Phone number		Email	
Signature		Date	

Medical Practitioner

This section to be completed by a Medical Practitioner

Declaration of Support

I agree to be part of the Clinical Support team for the applicant for the duration of their enrolment in the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program at the University of South Australia. I will support the applicant to extend their practice skills to meet the NMBA Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice. With the other members of the Clinical Support Team, I agree to assess the student's achievement of the Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice in both formative and summative assessment activities.

I have provided a comprehensive curriculum vitae outlining my qualifications and clinical experience.

Medical Practitioner Details

Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Work Address:			
Phone number		Email	
Signature		Date	



Form 3 (cont.): Clinical Support Team

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Additional members of the clinical support team may include an advanced practice nurse in the specialty area and other health professionals relevant to the service delivery team in the student's specialty field of practice (such as relevant members of the allied health professions, for example pharmacy).

Applicant Details

This section to be completed by the applicant

Given Name		Family Name	
AHPRA Registration		Specialty Area	

Clinical Support Team Member

This section to be completed by any additional support team member

Declaration of Support

- I agree to be part of the Clinical Support Team for the applicant for the duration of their enrolment in the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program at the University of South Australia. I will support the applicant to extend their practice skills to meet the NMBA Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice. With the other members of the Mentorship team, I agree to assess the student's achievement of the Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice in both formative and summative assessment activities.
- I have provided a comprehensive curriculum vitae outlining my qualifications and clinical experience.

Details

Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Work Address:			
Phone number		Mentor's Email	
Signature		Date	

Clinical Support Team Member

This section to be completed by any additional support team member

Declaration of Support

- I agree to be part of the Clinical Support Team for the applicant for the duration of their enrolment in the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program at the University of South Australia. I will support the applicant to extend their practice skills to meet the NMBA Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice. With the other members of the Mentorship team, I agree to assess the student's achievement of the Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice in both formative and summative assessment activities.
- I have provided a comprehensive curriculum vitae outlining my qualifications and clinical experience.

Details

Name and Title			
Position and Organisation			
Work Address:			
Phone number		Mentor's Email	
Signature		Date	