

2021

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY  
MASTER OF NURSING  
ACUTE CARE

**INFORMATION PACK**

Are you a Registered Nurse working in a medical or surgical specialty area?

Are you keen to study a post graduate qualification, whilst working in your specialty clinical area?

Are you keen to become an 'advanced practice nurse' in your specialty area, to influence patient outcomes and enhance opportunities for your career success?

Enrol in the Master of Nursing Acute Care stream and choose your focus -

*Choose a medical or surgical specialty, within the Acute Care stream of the Master of Nursing.*

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

The La Trobe University's Master of Nursing 'Acute Care' course is a stream in the 'Master of Nursing' suite of post graduate courses.

The Acute Care course is designed to advance your nursing practice, in the domains of clinical care, optimising health systems, education, research, and leadership.

Nurses undertaking the postgraduate 'Acute Care' qualification are challenged to develop higher-order clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills, specialised clinical proficiency and exceptional communication skills required to care for the complex acutely unwell patient in your clinical practice area.

Acute Care nurses utilise current evidence to analyse and critique care delivery, and apply new knowledge based on evidence to clinical practice, to positively impact patient outcomes and our communities.

The Acute Care post graduate qualification provides nurses with the opportunity to extend their current level of clinical competence, clinical reflection, professional and therapeutic communication, whilst maintaining professional integrity and ethical standards of care, to comprehensively assess and manage care of patients and their families within a multidisciplinary team.

Nurses studying the Acute Care course advance their nursing practice, supported by a community of nurses with similar aspirations and motivations. These nurses are committed to 'improved patient outcomes' and to 'enhanced opportunities for career progression'.

# COURSE OVERVIEW

## **Year 1: Graduate Certificate (60 credit points)**

Two 15 cp subjects + one 30 cp subject

Critical Nursing Essentials : NSM4CNE (15 cp)

Transition to Acute Care : NSM4TAE (15 cp)

Specialist Nursing Practice Acute Care : NSM4SNP Acute Care (30 cp)

### **Exit with Graduate Certificate of Nursing in Acute Care**

## **Year 2: Diploma (60 credit points)**

Two 30 cp subjects

*OPTION 1:* Research in Nursing and Midwifery (30), plus one of

Education (30)

Management (30)

Research Pathway - Nursing and Midwifery Thesis A (30)

*OPTION 2:* Clinical Pathway

Advanced Clinical A (15)

Advanced Clinical B (15)

Elective – inc. Health Management subjects (30)

### **Exit with Graduate Diploma of Nursing Acute Care**

## **Year 3: Masters (60 credit points)**

Two 30 cp subjects

*OPTION 1:* Clinical Pathway

Implementing Practice Change (30)

Nursing and Midwifery Innovation Project (30)

*OPTION 2:* Research Pathway

Nursing & Midwifery Thesis B (30)

Nursing & Midwifery Thesis C (30)

### **Exit with Master of Nursing in Acute Care**

## **SUBJECTS: First semester subject**

### **Critical Nursing Essentials (15 credit points)**

In this subject, you will develop fundamental knowledge and skills required to conduct a comprehensive assessment in your acute care environment, and develop appropriate nursing care plans appropriate for all patients across the care continuum. Underpinning any patient assessment is a detailed understanding of normal physiological processes and the ways in which illness and injury alters these processes.

This subject covers anatomy and physiology, a systems based approach to assessment, recognition and responding to the deteriorating patient, teamwork communication, legal and ethical issues. The knowledge and skills that are learned in this subject directly translate to clinical practice. Nurses will consolidate the theoretical underpinnings of their practice and demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skills and attributes required, to care for acutely ill patients.

The ability to undertake a focused and comprehensive patient assessment is essential to all nursing practice. Conducting inclusive patient assessments allows nurses to gather the requisite information to make sound clinical judgements. With an emphasis on the systematic collection of reliable and valid assessment data, this subject examines the knowledge, capabilities and clinical skills required to undertake comprehensive patient assessment in complex clinical situations.

At the completion of this subject nurses are prepared for ethically oriented professional practice, and to undertake further studies at more advanced levels. CNE is a pre-requisite for undertaking Specialty Nursing Practice in Acute Care the following semester.

The subject is delivered via a blended mode comprising of online learning modules and has one face to face (or online) workshop.

## **SUBJECTS: First semester subject:**

### **Transition to Acute Care NSM4TAE (15 credit points)**

This subject supports you to develop specialist knowledge and skills required to care for patients in your Acute Care clinical environment. Following a systems-based approach, this subject empowers nurses to provide evidence-based care to improve patient care and outcomes. Upon successful completion of this subject, nurses will make independent judgements; develop relevant nursing plans, implement, and evaluate their practice, and function effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team in an Acute Care setting. In the Transition subject, pathophysiology of common hospital conditions (e.g. heart failure, sepsis) and their advanced nursing management is covered.

Throughout this subject, nurses are provided with the opportunity to continue to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, specialised clinical proficiency, and exceptional communication skills.

The transition subject is also a pre-requisite for undertaking the Specialty Nursing Practice subject NSM4SNP – Acute Care the following semester.

The subject is delivered via a blended online mode comprising of learning modules and 3 face to face (or online) workshops.

## **SUBJECTS: Second semester subject:**

### **Specialty Nursing Practice (30 credit points)**

In this second semester subject, nurses focus on complex scenarios related to their specific clinical environment. In semester one, our nurses focus on single organ dysfunction. In semester two, nurses studying the subject SNP focus on high acuity patients with possible multi-organ dysfunction in their clinical areas.

Specialty Nursing Practice is designed to prepare nurses for their specialty practice and covers assessment and advanced management of patients with a variety of complex cardiovascular, haemodynamic, respiratory, renal, gastro-intestinal and neurological dysfunctions in the ward environment.

Nurses develop knowledge and skills to competently care for the acutely unwell patient, i.e., the patient post-complex surgery; the patient with multi-organ dysfunction; the patient with sepsis; the shocked patient; the cancer patient in medical and surgical areas; and the patient experiencing neurological deterioration.

Through online learning, clinical experience and assessment activities, nurses continue to develop exceptional communication skills, an understanding and application of ethical considerations and evidence to clinical practice.

Nurses studying a post graduate qualification in Acute Care develop clinical confidence and contribute to leadership in clinical practice. These nurses demonstrate a commitment to their own continuing professional development and the development of others in the clinical environment.

SNP is delivered via a blended online mode comprising of learning modules and 4 face to face (or online) study days.

# ASSESSMENT

SUBJECT	TASK	WORDS	WEIGHTING
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>			
CNE	Written Assignment	1500-words	30%
CNE	Coroners Case Review	2000-words	40%
CNE	Online Quiz (Cardiovascular)	500-word equivalent	10%
CNE	Online Quiz (Neuro/fluids)	500-word equivalent	10%
CNE	Online Quiz (GIT/Renal)	500-word equivalent	10%
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
TAE	Written case presentation	1500	35%
TAE	Oral case presentation	1000-word equivalent	25%
TAE	Clinical Appraisal	1000-word equivalent	Hurdle
TAE	Online Examination	1500-word	40% Hurdle
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>			
SNP	Written Assessment – clinical case study	1000-words	20%
SNP	Written case presentation – clinical case study	3000-words	30%
SNP	Oral case presentation – case study	2000-word equivalent	20%
SNP	Clinical Appraisal	1000-word equivalent	Hurdle
SNP	Online theory examination	2000-word equivalent	30% Hurdle

## **DELIVERY**

The Master of Nursing course is flexible in its delivery, utilising a flexible and blended approach of online, self-directed and clinical learning. Students in a blended learning course, experience the flexibility of online study as well as the benefits of traditional face-to-face (or online) teaching.

The online Learning Management System (LMS), contains all the course content, subject and assessment information and learning resources. The blended learning approach incorporates the online resources, self-directed study, workshop activities and clinical support in the workplace. Students work through online weekly modules at their own pace. These online modules contain learning content, reading lists, further tasks or consolidation activities. You are supported to access to the LMS.

Face to face workshops are conducted at RMH or the Bundoora Campus La Trobe University. If Covid 19 restrictions are enforced, workshops will be held face to face online via zoom. Workshops are an opportunity for nurses to consolidate their learning, apply their learning to clinical case scenarios, learn from their peers through peer to peer interactions, and clarify their understanding of readings, experiences and expectations with academics and Katie course coordinator.

RMH clinical educators support your learning in the clinical environment, conduct any clinical competencies required by individual departments, assess your oral case presentation, and conduct a formative and summative clinical appraisal of your progress during your graduate certificate.

## **SUPPORT**

Nurses undertaking the Acute Care stream of the Master of Nursing course are a community of nurses supported by the University, course coordinators, hospital clinical educators, workplace colleagues and student peers.

There is regular communication between the university and your clinical educators to support you to a successful outcome.

You are kept up to date with regular communications from the course coordinator. Your course coordinator 'Katie' is contactable via email and will promptly reply to student and clinical educator correspondence.

Feedback is sought from students at regular intervals throughout the course. The University greatly appreciates and values student feedback to inform ongoing course revision with the aim of improving student learning and the student experience.

## **APPLICATION**

Nurses enrolled in the first year of the Master of Nursing Acute Care course are employed a minimum of 2 days per week in their particular clinical area which is equivalent to 192 hours of clinical practice per semester.

Further information will be provided shortly with regards to the application process on the RMH Post Graduate internet website.

Nurses may be eligible for advanced standing for previous study. Please apply for advanced standing on application to the university. Please contact Katie with queries about advanced standing.

## FEES

For 2021, full fees are \$13,700 per 60 credit points for the Graduate Certificate in Nursing - Acute Care.

You may be eligible for a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) which provides our nurses with ~ 70% reduction in their overall university fee. Note your CSP, provides a reduced fee for the duration of your Master's course. This is an exceptional opportunity.

An example is listed below for the Graduate Certificate subjects with CSP places:

Critical Nursing Essentials – Student Contribution Fee = \$1027  
Transition to Intensive Care - Student Contribution Fee = \$1027  
Specialist Nursing Practice – Student Contribution Fee = \$2055

## **CONTACT US**

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