

Advanced Health Assessment

This course provides an opportunity to develop a sound knowledge and skills base which will facilitate informed and competent practice in the area of comprehensive health assessment and screening skills. A biopsychosocial approach is used to explore assessment and related nursing management strategies. There is provision for opportunities to develop a wide range of nursing strategies designed to assist individuals who commonly present to general practices with physical or mental health concerns, using a systems-based multi-disciplinary approach. Strong links are established between theory and the work practice environment.

Assessment:

There are 2 case studies as follows:

Students are required to submit a case study of the nursing management of a client or clients on whom a physical or mental health assessment or screening procedure has been completed. (Each case study a minimum of 2000 words)

There are 2 clinical skills assessments to be completed.

Students will be required to enter into a mentoring arrangement with a colleague (either a Medical Practitioner or a senior Practice Nurse experienced in health assessment in the workplace) for client assessment skills to be evaluated in the area selected for each case study.

Course Electives

Following completion of these 3 courses the student can select from a range of electives. These on-line course choices are available on the USC web site with the range of choices is being expanded each year.

Choices in 2008 include the following:

NUR721	Research in Health Care
NUR713	Independent Study
NUR712	Midwifery in a Social Context
PUB722	Health Promotion Needs Assessment and Planning
PUB721	Health Promotion Principles
NUR713	Independent Study
NUR703	Infant Care
PUB731	Health Promotion Implementation and Evaluation

For further information

about this innovative course

please contact your local Division of

General Practice.



Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)



Information

Course Content



University of the
Sunshine Coast

*Joint initiative of Australian General Practice Network and
University of the Sunshine Coast.
With acknowledgement to the Sunshine Coast Division of
General Practice*

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) Overview.

The Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) is a 4 course award. Students are required to enrol in the first 3 courses:

NUR 551 - Practice Nursing 1,

NUR 552 - Practice Nursing 2 and

NUR 751 - Advanced Health Assessment

These courses are offered in a modularized format by a Division of General Practice (DGP). Students will then be eligible to enrol in the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) offered by the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and gain credit for the 3 courses successfully completed through the Division. Students will then undertake 1 USC elective. On successful completion of all 4 courses students are eligible to be awarded the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice).

The tutors delivering the graduate certificate provide support and assistance to students, particularly students who have not previously undertaken tertiary study, throughout the first three courses, with emphasis on academic writing and online learning techniques



Course Outline

Practice Nursing 1

This course introduces students to the breadth and depth of practice nursing and the role of general practice nursing within the Australian health care system. The course provides an introduction to a number of concepts associated with primary health care. These include epidemiology, community analysis and health care planning, immunisation, and health education and promotion. Each of these is addressed within a framework which introduces principles of academic writing and basic applied research. There are 2 assignments

Assessment Task 1

Students will be required to submit a project that is based on material covered in Module 1 of the course. They will be required to critically evaluate current Australian primary health care initiatives. The evaluation should include a description of a real initiative in their own local area, how it relates to national strategies and benchmarks and a rationale for why the initiative was needed. The project will be a maximum of 2000 words and will be worth 40% of final marks.

Assessment Task 2:

Students will be required to submit a community profile based on material covered in Modules 2 and 3 of the course. Students will be required to undertake an analysis of the community (can be a whole community or a distinct group within the area where their work environment provides a service). The profile should identify a clear need within this community; identify a health education or health promotion service which is intended to meet this need as well as a justification for this choice of service. The profile will be a maximum of 3000 words and will be worth 60% of final marks.

Practice Nursing 2

This course provides an opportunity to analyse the role of the general practice nurse. Students will be required to investigate current initiatives as well as analyse topical issues such as advanced practice and extended practice roles for nurses, through the use of strategies such as critical thinking, reflection and problem solving. Opportunities will be provided to address issues which influence the provision of quality health services, including wound and pain management and infection control. The applied nature of the material encourages students to analyse current and future work roles.

Assessment Task 1:

Students will be required to complete a role analysis based on material in Module 1 of the course. The essay will consist of a paper in which students will be required to critically analyse their current role against national standards benchmarks, standards and exemplars of best practice for practice nurses. The essay will be a maximum of 2,500 words and will be worth 50% of final marks.

Assessment Task 2:

Students will be required to complete a case study based on material covered in Modules 2 and 3. Students will select a practice management quality improvement strategy from the work environment and complete a case study outlining this strategy and its contribution to improved health care outcomes.

Each student is to select an area for analysis, justify its importance, analyse associated ethical and legal implications, and outline strategies which need to be established as well as potential problem areas. The essay will be a maximum of 2,500 words and will be worth 50% of final marks.