



Australian College of Nursing

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

# COURSE GUIDE

Study with Australia's leading provider of nursing education

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## WHY STUDY WITH ACN?

ACN is a leading provider of postgraduate and vocational education for registered and enrolled nurses. You can be confident that if you choose to study with ACN, we are recognised for providing courses that are contemporary and have a strong clinical and evidence-based practice focus.

Our comprehensive courses are designed and developed by nurse educators in collaboration with health industry partners to ensure that they build your clinical and leadership skills to advance your knowledge in your chosen specialty.

### **Our courses are written by specialist nurses for nurses**

- ✓ You will be supported by tutors and nurse educators
- ✓ Study online, anywhere, anytime
- ✓ FEE-HELP available
- ✓ ACN students have access to Office 365 Education for free, throughout the duration of their course
- ✓ ACN is a registered Institute of Higher Education, TEQSA Provider ID: PRV14001.

## READY TO GET STARTED?

Apply for an ACN Graduate Certificate [here](#).

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## GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

ACN supports our students to become graduates who will:

- 1** Demonstrate enhanced professional, social and ethical understanding in a specialist area of practice.
- 2** Apply complex problem solving and information literacy skills to the development of evidence-based practice, research and policy reform.
- 3** Engage in behaviour that is culturally appropriate, safe and sensitive to the needs of people in their care.
- 4** Demonstrate an understanding of, and respect for, Australian Aboriginal values, culture and knowledge to build trust and improve health outcomes.
- 5** Combine advanced communication skills with an awareness of global health determinants to independently and collaboratively lead and educate others.
- 6** Reflect and think critically to be better able to care for self, improve health outcomes, and influence safe and effective professional practice.





## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to graduate certificate (GC) courses is based on academic merit and selection. In addition, applicants must satisfy any prerequisites or additional requirements specified for particular courses, including ACN's general eligibility criteria.

### **All applicants seeking admission are required to:**

- hold a Bachelor of Nursing or registered nurse\* equivalent qualification
- be currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) or the equivalent registering authority in your country of origin
- have a minimum of one year postgraduate experience
- be currently employed in an appropriate clinical setting.

\*For some GC single units of study, consideration may be given for applicants who are not registered nurses on an individual basis.

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

International applicants will need to provide evidence of proficiency in English. Enrolment in, or successful completion of, a course at ACN does not entitle students to practice nursing in Australia. Students wishing to practice nursing in Australia must seek registration and/or assessment for eligibility to register through the NMBA.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE ACUTE CARE NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing will provide you with the principles required to meet the diverse needs of patients in the acute care setting.

There has been a recent shift in the nation's health care needs, influenced by an increase in chronic disease, the ageing population, global health care trends and the impact of technology on medical, surgical and diagnostic procedures, increasing the need for specialised acute care nurses. To cater for these diverse needs, this graduate certificate offers a wide range of electives, with more units under development.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

## Course overview

The course is designed for nurses working in a variety of acute care settings. Students analyse and apply their knowledge and problem-solving skills to clinical case scenarios based on commonly encountered acute care presentations. The units of study provide nurses with an opportunity to extend their ability to undertake increasingly complex nursing activities in a range of acute medical and surgical care settings.

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate provision of competent interpersonal and clinical care to patients through the acquisition, application and communication of specialist knowledge and skills which reflect professional and ethico-legal integrity
- identify, appraise and apply research evidence to inform nursing practice and develop professional responsibility and accountability commensurate with the specialist role
- critically evaluate available knowledge in relation to complex situations to guide the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of evidence based nursing care
- collaborate with the multidisciplinary team in provision of effective therapeutic relationships and continuity of care within the context of acute care nursing practice
- consider strategies when caring for culturally and linguistically diverse populations, in particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- create an effective clinical learning environment through demonstrating mentorship and the propagation of specialised knowledge and technical skill
- demonstrate leadership through participation in policy development, service provision and quality improvement within the specialist context.



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE AGED CARE NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Aged Care Nursing will provide you with the principles of aged care nursing practice to improve your knowledge and skills to offer and coordinate evidence-based person-centred nursing care for the older person. The aim is to encourage professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development to improve health outcomes, as highlighted in our white paper. Specialist nurses write our course for nurses. Our students are supported by a team of clinical experts working within the specialty. Our unique blend of electives allows students to explore further a specific area of interest, such as Dementia Care and the Principles of Infection Control.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

The course studies the complex needs of the older person being cared for within diverse aged care environments. This course aims to strengthen and develop nurses' knowledge, skills, and attitudes about caring for older person. The course provides an advanced grounding in research methods, in addition to developing the theoretical and practical aspects of management, clinical practice and education. In this course,

the single units of study draw upon the student's nursing experience and combine this experience with theory, current research, and best practice guidelines to enhance the student's specialist knowledge and skills, critical thinking and analysis abilities, and clinical decision-making.

This course is designed to develop specific learning outcomes. Students will:

- integrate specialist knowledge, assessment skills and information to support an improved standard of care for the older person
- develop enhanced clinical decision-making skills using multiple modes of enquiry and collaborative approaches
- establish and maintain effective therapeutic relationships with older people, their support network, professional colleagues, and other stakeholders
- critically analyse literature and develop evidence-based nursing practice within diverse aged care environments
- demonstrate professional and educational leadership skills to provide support and contribute to multidisciplinary aged care team
- advocate for older people within all aged care environments.
- demonstrate leadership through participation in policy development, service provision and quality improvement within the specialist context.





## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE BREAST CANCER NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Breast Cancer Nursing instils a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development into our students, resulting in improved outcomes for patients. It responds to industry requirements by preparing graduates for specialist breast cancer nursing roles within the wide scope of breast cancer care.

The ability to choose electives allows students to further explore a specific area of interest related to breast cancer nursing.

ACN has proudly been providing education to McGrath Foundation nurses since 2013 through this course.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

The course aligns with the Specialist Breast Nurse Competency Standards and associated educational requirements (NBCC, 2005) and the National Educational Framework for Cancer Nurses (EdCaN, 2009).

The Graduate Certificate in Breast Cancer Nursing focuses on the continuum of breast cancer care, evidence based practice, future trends and the impact of breast cancer on individuals, their families and communities.

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate a specialist knowledge base within breast cancer nursing
- develop specialist clinical practice and advance their clinical decision making skills
- engage in and maintain effective therapeutic relationships
- implement professional, educational and leadership skills to provide support for other clinicians and contribute to patient care
- critically analyse current literature and nursing practice to provide evidence based contemporary care
- reflect on personal and professional values and attitudes in relation to the care of patients with breast cancer and their families and carers.





# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE CANCER NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Cancer Nursing instils a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development into our students, resulting in improved outcomes for patients.

The focus is on evidence based practice for the prevention, diagnosis, pathology and treatments of cancer.

The core units of this course are supplemented by various elective units to help students refine their studies to their specific needs and interests.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical nurse consultant
- Cancer nurse coordinator.

## Course overview

Studying the Graduate certificate in cancer nursing provides students with the knowledge and skills required to coordinate and provide culturally safe, evidenced-based cancer care. The Australian College of Nursing aims to enhance students' professional and ethical understanding in order to facilitate clinical practice development and improve patient outcomes. Our course is written by specialist nurses, for nurses. Students are supported towards to attainment of their individual learning goals by a team of highly

skilled clinical experts. Students select from a range of specialty electives which allow further exploration of specific clinical areas of interest related to cancer nursing. Students engage in the planning, development and evaluation of their own clinical and educational requirements to promote lifelong learning through critical analysis and reflection.

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate a specialist knowledge base within cancer nursing for the provision and coordination of contemporary cancer care
- develop specialist clinical practice and advanced clinical decision-making skills in the assessment and management of people living with cancer
- analyse the communication skills used to establish effective therapeutic relationships with people diagnosed with cancer, their families and carers
- examine leadership, professional and educational skills that contribute to a high standard of cancer nursing care and practice development within interprofessional teams
- evaluate nursing practice against research and current literature to support the provision of contemporary evidence-based cancer nursing care
- demonstrate ability to reflect on personal and professional values and attitudes in relation to the care of people living with cancer, their families and carers.



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health Nursing provides students with a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development to improve outcomes for children and families.

Child and family health nurses require an appreciation of the biopsychosocial, cultural and emotional needs of a family to promote a nurturing and supportive environment in which children can thrive and grow. This course takes all of these factors into consideration to prepare nurses for a rewarding career in this field.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education and consultancy roles
- Management roles
- Rural and remote nursing roles
- Practice nursing.

### Course overview

This course aims to provide nurses with a sound understanding of child and family health nursing within a legal, moral and ethical framework that reflects current models of care and government policy and practice initiatives. This course also includes 80 hours of clinical placement.

This course enables students to:

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to practice in the specialty of child and family health nursing that is benchmarked against professional standards
- Develop an understanding of best practice models, policies and standards to provide contemporary, evidence based practice within child and family health nursing service delivery
- Analyse and apply the principles of primary health care, health promotion and relationship-based nursing practice to facilitate optimal health and development of infants, young children and families
- Identify the key elements required to foster effective therapeutic relationships with infants, young children, families and communities within the professional boundaries of ethical nursing practice and health care responsibilities
- Discuss the importance of the role of the child and family health nurse, working in a strengths-based partnership model, in the promotion of healthy family functioning and child-parent attachment
- Demonstrate an awareness of, and sensitivity towards social, cultural, (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander), environmental and political factors that influence the practice of child and family health nursing
- Critically examine and apply current research to develop reflective, problem-solving and critical thinking skills in the context of contemporary child and family health nursing practice.



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE COMMUNITY AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Community and Primary Health Care Nursing instills a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development into our students, resulting in the best outcome for individuals.

Community and Primary Health Care (CPH) nursing is a dynamic area of contemporary, evidence-based nursing practice. Community and Primary Health Care nurses work in specialties ranging from aged care dementia, primary health care for the homeless, palliative care, chronic disease management and education, child and family health to refugee health and beyond. This graduate certificate offers a comprehensive choice of electives, with more units under development to meet the care needs of these diverse groups and individuals.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles
- Practice nursing
- Rural and remote nursing.

### Course overview

This course is designed for nurses working in a variety of community, primary health and general practice settings. It will enhance the nurse's knowledge and skills in prevention, early intervention and management of a range of often complex illnesses.

Continuity of care and the facilitation of self-management is emphasised across the transition from acute to sub-acute and community care.

This course enables students to:

- Critically examine the relationship between social determinants of health, health outcomes and the context of specialist nursing practice
- Examine the economic and political factors influencing determinants of health and health outcomes
- Develop specialist clinical practice and advance their clinical decision making skills
- Rationalise their professional, ethical and social responsibilities commensurate to the context of nursing practice
- Analyse contemporary models of care that meet the specialised needs of the individual
- Promote an effective learning environment through the development, dissemination and fostering of specialist knowledge and skills
- Evaluate available services and resources that support the management of a client with diverse health care needs.





# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE COSMETIC NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Cosmetic Nursing aims to meet the educational needs of nurses currently working, or planning to work, in the cosmetic nursing environment. The course also aims to cultivate clinical leadership skills to support career development.

ACN is proud to be a leading Australian online provider of the Graduate Certificate in Cosmetic Nursing.

Cosmetic nursing is an exciting and rapidly evolving nursing field where there is a high demand for skilled nurses wishing to experience the benefits of practicing in this diverse specialty across a variety of settings.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

## Course overview

This course will provide nurses with an advanced knowledge of all aspects of cosmetic nursing, as well as an appreciation of the psychological and emotional needs of their clients, enabling them to provide evidence-based, holistic nursing care that reflects current best practice. A clinical placement, incorporating theory with practice, is central to the course.

This course enables students to:

- apply specialist knowledge of anatomy and

physiology to the nursing assessment and management of clients undergoing cosmetic procedures

- analyse the principles of pharmacology to demonstrate a specialist holistic approach to client centred care
- develop advanced communication skills to establish and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients and stakeholders
- critically reflect on current practice and learning experiences to promote leadership, knowledge sharing and development of a philosophy of lifelong learning
- explore legal, ethical and cultural issues in relation to the nursing care of clients undergoing cosmetic procedures
- critically analyse current literature and nursing practice to provide evidence based contemporary care in the cosmetic specialty.

Participants will be required to successfully complete the following online modules provided in partnership with Bravura Education:

- Laser & Intense Pulsed Light Safety Officer training course (Cosmetic Practice)
- Advanced Laser & Intense Pulsed Light accreditation course (Applied Cosmetic Practice)

These are available for no additional fee. Recognition of prior learning will be considered for applicants who have already completed these modules or a recognised equivalent course within the last three years.



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE CRITICAL CARE NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing enables students to acquire advanced clinical knowledge and deep understanding of critical care nursing practice. Students will explore collaborative and multidisciplinary approach as means of providing comprehensive clinical care in diverse critical care settings. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are emphasized in all aspects of healthcare delivery. Students are also required to reflect on their own role as a specialist nurse informed by evidence, cultural safety, ethical and legal nursing practice.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

This course enables students to develop the specialist knowledge and skills required of a nurse in a variety of critical care areas. Within this course there are three specialist critical care areas: cardiac, emergency and intensive care. Eligibility is dependent on the specialist stream you choose.

This course enables students to:

- develop a sound theoretical base for specialist nursing practice in a dynamic, complex and demanding critical care environment
- apply specialist level of clinical skills and abilities to optimise person-centred care delivery for critical ill people
- analyse complex clinical problems using critical thinking, evolved reasoning informed by national and international best practice guidelines
- discuss legal, ethical and cultural concepts related to providing holistic health care in a safe and cohesive critical care environment
- evaluate critical care leadership and mentoring processes which enable dissemination of knowledge, enhancement of skills and participation in collaborative research and lifelong learning
- critically analyse own role in fostering reflective practice and effective communication for continuous improvement of standards and quality in critical care.



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DERMATOLOGY NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Dermatology Nursing is designed to meet the educational needs of nurses who are working in or would like to work in the diverse dermatological environment. The course aims to provide nurses with an advanced knowledge of all aspects of dermatological nursing within a legal, moral and ethical framework that reflects current best practice.

Nurses working within the dermatology specialties require an advanced dermatological and pharmacological knowledge, and an appreciation of the psychological and emotional needs of the people they are treating. By encouraging a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development, patient outcomes are improved.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

This course aims to provide nurses with an advanced knowledge of all aspects of dermatological nursing within a legal, moral and ethical framework that reflects current best practice.

Students are provided with the opportunity to reflect on and critique their experiences encountered in clinical practice in light of current literature and research. The course also aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to clinical leadership.

This course enables students to:

- apply specialist knowledge of anatomy and physiology used, to the nursing assessment and management of clients undergoing dermatological treatments
- analyse the principles of pharmacology and other treatments to apply to the delivery of holistic person centred care
- develop advanced communication skills in order to establish therapeutic relationships with patients, stakeholders and the multidisciplinary team
- critically reflect upon current practice and learning experiences to promote leadership, knowledge sharing and development of a philosophy of lifelong learning
- explore the legal, ethical and cultural issues in relation to the nursing care of patients undergoing dermatological procedures
- critically analyse current literature and nursing practice to provide evidence based contemporary care in the dermatology specialty.

Participants will be required to successfully complete the following online module provided in partnership with Bravura Education:

- Laser & Intense Pulsed Light Safety Officer training course (Cosmetic Practice)

This is available for no additional fee. Recognition of prior learning will be considered for applicants who have already completed this module or a recognised equivalent course within the last three years.





## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DIAGNOSTIC AND INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY NURSING

Studying the Graduate Certificate in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Nursing with ACN will provide you with the principles required to meet the diverse needs of individuals in this environment.

It will equip you with knowledge and skills for the provision and coordination of evidence based person-centred care. The aim is to encourage professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development.

The rapid evolution of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Nursing requires skilled practitioners to provide safe care to improve person-centred care outcomes.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
  - Endoluminal vascular surgery
  - Interventional oncology
  - Neurointerventional radiology
  - Acute care
  - Perioperative nursing
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

The focus of this course is to apply holistic nursing management to individuals undergoing diagnostic and interventional radiology.

Students analyse and apply their knowledge and problem-solving skills to clinical case scenarios based on commonly encountered individual presentations.

The units of study provide students with an opportunity to extend their ability to undertake increasingly complex nursing activities in the provision of a comprehensive range of general and specialist diagnostic, interventional and therapeutic services.

Graduate certificate participants will be empowered and enabled to assist in:

- preparing Individuals for procedures
- providing education to individuals and support networks
- overseeing the safety and comfort of individuals before, during and after procedures
- assist in performing interventional procedures
- assisting in the administration of conscious sedation and adjunct analgesia
- assist in monitoring the individual throughout the procedure
- providing post procedure monitoring

**Diagnostic radiology** involves using imaging radiology methodologies to diagnose disease or injury.

**Interventional radiology** involves utilising perioperative methodologies to deliver therapeutic procedures, often after diagnostic procedures have been completed.



ACN's Graduate Certificate in Digital Health is designed to meet the educational needs of registered nurses who are working or wish to work in the diverse digital health environment. The course aims to provide nurses with knowledge of all aspects of digital health within a legal, moral and ethical framework that reflects current best practice.

Career opportunities include:

- Specialist nursing roles in clinical informatics
- Specialist knowledge on health information technology, and advances in digital health
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles (information officer)

## Course overview

The course aims to provide nurses with knowledge of all aspects of digital health within a legal, moral and ethical framework that reflects current best practice.

Students are provided with the opportunity to reflect on and critique their experiences in light of current literature and research. The course also aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to clinical leadership.

This course enables students to:

- Apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes of nurses working in the digitalised health environment to practice
- Analyse complex clinical data integrity problems using critical thinking and multiple modes of inquiry
- Critically analyse current literature regarding data use and nursing practice in digitalised health environments
- Model the skills and abilities that provide a foundation for future leadership roles in digitalised healthcare environments
- Critically reflect on personal values and ethics as central to the development of culturally safe practice in digitalised health environments



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DRUG AND ALCOHOL NURSING

Studying the Graduate Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Nursing with the Australian College of Nursing provides the knowledge and skills for the provision and coordination of person-centred care in this growing specialty.

The aim is to encourage professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development for the improvement of outcomes for people experiencing alcohol and other drug issues.

Our course is written by specialist nurses, for nurses, and students are supported by a team of clinical experts, working within the specialty.

This course will provide students with an understanding of substance use issues from both an individual and public health perspective. The need for more postgraduate study in this growing specialty has been flagged by the NSW Ministry of Health's Drug and Alcohol Nursing Advisory Committee's Workforce.

Career opportunities may include:

- Clinical education roles
- Management roles
- Pharmacotherapy treatment
- Drug and alcohol consulting
- Rehabilitation centre nursing

### Course overview

Students will explore a range of opinions around the policy of harm minimisation and the sociopolitical aspects of substance use.

Students will learn specialist skills in motivational interviewing, relapse prevention,

pharmacotherapy services, case management, co-morbidities and complex care. Additionally, this course emphasises the importance of primary health care interventions.

This course enables students to:

- Apply critical thinking/clinical reasoning skills to the assessment of the person living with alcohol and other drug issues, linking specialist theory to holistic clinical practice
- Demonstrate specialist knowledge in the use of pharmacotherapies and psychosocial interventions for the treatment of persons in the context of alcohol and other drugs nursing practice
- Apply current evidence-based research, including government policy and strategy, to enhance clinical decision-making skills and care planning in the context of alcohol and other drugs nursing practice
- Develop advanced communication skills in order to establish therapeutic relationships with persons, their support network, and the interdisciplinary team to promote a holistic approach to alcohol and other drugs nursing care
- Develop leadership, mentoring and educational skills to contribute to high standard alcohol and other drugs nursing practice, and facilitate quality improvement in this area
- Critically reflect on the role of personal values and ethics as central to the development of culturally safe practice in alcohol and other drugs nursing practice.





## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management provides students with a professional and ethical understanding of the impact of leadership and effective management.

It is designed for registered nurses and midwives aspiring to management positions, as well as for those already holding such positions who wish to enhance their professional practice through formal study.

This course is an investment for the future, delivering students the knowledge and skills needed to ensure better outcomes for patients and career advancement.

Career opportunities may include:

- Health care management roles
  - Ward level
  - Organisational level
  - Department level
  - Private organisations.

### Course overview

This course prepares nurses for their role as leaders and managers within the contemporary health care landscape through the exploration and integration of theoretical knowledge and concepts. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to clinical leadership and management incorporating human resource management, financial management and quality processes.

The units of study are:

- Introduction to leadership and management
- Human resource management
- Financial management
- Quality.

This course enables students to:

- critically analyse organisational behaviours and structures
- compare leadership styles required to manage change
- analyse communication, negotiation and interpersonal skills required for effective leadership
- examine components that contribute to effective team culture
- identify factors associated with funding and financial decision making
- appraise the process and applications of business planning
- evaluate quality systems
- critically analyse leadership and management theories.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE NEONATAL CARE

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Neonatal Care provides students with guidance on the advanced skills and knowledge neonatal nurses and midwives need to be able to care for vulnerable newborns, as well as providing comfort and support to families of the hospitalised infants.

The aim of this course is to encourage professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development for the improvement of patient outcomes.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles
- Rural and remote nursing
- Credit toward further studies at a Masters level.

## Course overview

The Graduate Certificate in Neonatal Care enhances the clinical skills, professional and ethical understanding of neonatal nurses and midwives, and facilitates the provision of evidence-based care, thereby optimising the health, growth and development outcomes of prematurely born and term neonates and their families. The course aligns with the domains and standards for neonatal nurses (ACNN 2019). The guiding principles are founded upon a holistic framework of culturally safe, individualised and developmentally supportive, family centred care.

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to provide family-centred, developmentally supportive care in the neonatal specialty context and benchmark against appropriate professional standards
- discuss the legal, ethical, social and cultural issues affecting neonates and their families
- evaluate neonatal practice against research and current literature, to identify potential areas of practice development, and support the provision of contemporary evidence based neonatal care
- develop clinical decision making and leadership skills through research, inquiry and collaboration with the health care team to enhance practice
- develop ability to reflect on the advanced knowledge and skills required to maintain therapeutic relationships with neonates, their families and the interdisciplinary health care team.



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE ORTHOPAEDIC NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Orthopaedic Nursing will provide you with the principles to improve your knowledge and skills for the provision and coordination of evidence based holistic care for patients with musculoskeletal conditions.

Orthopaedic nurses play an integral role supporting and educating orthopaedic patients across their lifespan. With the increase in the acuity of patients' needs and an ageing population, the demand for highly skilled nurses in the orthopaedic field can only continue to grow.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

The Graduate Certificate in Orthopaedic Nursing is designed for registered nurses working in a variety of orthopaedic environments. Content includes exploration of the impact of acute and chronic illness, differentiation of the range of musculoskeletal dysfunction associated with trauma and emphasises assessment and management strategies within both the adult and paediatric setting.

You will also have the opportunity to expand your professional development and improve your research skills.

This course is designed to develop specific learning outcomes. Students will:

- apply specialist knowledge of physiology, pathophysiology of diseases and trauma to the nursing assessment and management of orthopaedic patients
- explore the legal, ethical and cultural issues in relation to the nursing care of orthopaedic patients
- demonstrate specialist knowledge, comprehensive assessment skills and evidence-based practice to improve orthopaedic nursing care
- evaluate complex clinical problems demonstrating a specialist approach to practice across the lifespan
- critically reflect on current practice and learning experiences to promote leadership, knowledge sharing and development of a philosophy of lifelong learning
- develop advanced communication skills in order to establish therapeutic relationships with stakeholders, families and the multidisciplinary team for a holistic approach to nursing care.





# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PAEDIATRIC NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Nursing Studies (with specialty streams in Emergency and Intensive Care) is designed to meet the educational needs of nurses working within the diverse contexts of contemporary paediatric health care.

You are provided with the principles of acute paediatric nursing theory in order to develop your specialist knowledge base and plan nursing interventions that are linked with positive evidence-based clinical outcomes.

This course is aimed at nurses with an interest in pursuing paediatric studies from a variety of perspectives, it fosters a purposeful and child centred approach that makes a real difference to children's services and student career satisfaction.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

## Course overview

The Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Nursing Studies aims to cultivate excellence in the provision of nursing care for sick infants, children and young people, within a family focused framework.

The course offers three specialist streams: **general paediatrics, paediatric emergency and paediatric intensive care**. For all streams there is a choice of contemporary elective subjects to choose from, such as paediatric pain – assessment and management or Therapeutic Communication.

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate a specialist knowledge base within contemporary paediatric care
- analyse complex clinical problems using multiple modes of inquiry
- critically analyse current literature and nursing practice to provide evidence based contemporary care
- implement professional, educational and leadership skills to provide support for other clinicians
- engage in and maintain effective therapeutic relationships
- reflect on personal values related to culture and consider how this may impact on your delivery of family-centred care.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PALLIATIVE CARE

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care will provide you with the principles of palliative care nursing in order to improve your knowledge and skills for the provision and coordination of evidence-based, holistic nursing care that reflects current best practice.

Designed for registered nurses who are looking to extend their palliative care capabilities to become future palliative care experts in their field, the aim is to encourage professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development for the improvement of patient outcomes.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

## Course overview

This course prepares students for advanced practice as registered nurses with skills in palliative care clinical performance capabilities, critical decision-making and leadership skills.

The units of study are:

- Leadership and professional practice
- Principles of palliative care nursing
- Therapeutic communication
- Advanced concepts in palliative care nursing

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate the advanced knowledge, skills and attitudes required in the assessment and management of palliative care patients
- develop advanced communication skills in order to maintain positive therapeutic relationships with patients, significant others, and the multidisciplinary team
- model leadership behaviours within the speciality of Palliative care nursing, providing mentorship, education and positive contribution to the multidisciplinary team
- critically analyse contemporary literature and industry endorsed practice guidelines to provide the foundation for evidence based palliative care nursing practice
- evaluate the impact of personal and professional values on palliative care nursing, and reflect on the cultural and ethical issues related to caring for patients at the end of life.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Perioperative Nursing instils a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development into our students, resulting in improved outcomes for patients in diverse perioperative environments.

Students will learn the background skills and knowledge to provide holistic, patient centred care during anaesthesia, surgery and recovery. Graduates will have confidence making decisions in complex perioperative situations.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

## Course overview

The course is made up of one core subject, one specialty elective and two electives. The core unit of study highlights the practice and philosophy of perioperative nursing. Pre-, intra- and post-operative nursing assessment and care are explored in depth, as well as the broader aspects of legal and ethical issues associated with perioperative nursing roles. With specialty electives in anaesthetic nursing, instrument/circulating nursing and post anaesthetic recovery unit care, you can choose one or all three, allowing you to specialise in one area or giving you a broader experience. Our electives include medical imaging nursing and acute pain management.

This course enables students to:

- Demonstrate a specialist knowledge base within the contemporary perioperative environment
- Critically analyse current literature and nursing practice to provide evidence based contemporary care
- Implement professional, educational and leadership skills to provide support for other clinicians and contribute to patient care
- Engage in and maintain effective therapeutic relationships
- Benchmark against professional competency standards developed by Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN)
- Apply understanding of legislation, professional and ethical standards and health care policies within the contemporary perioperative environment.





## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE STOMAL THERAPY NURSING

ACN's Graduate Certificate in Stomal Therapy Nursing instils a professional and ethical understanding of clinical practice development into our students, resulting in improved outcomes for people.

This course provides the opportunity to develop the attributes of a specialist nurse, adopting an active role in stomal therapy, wound management and continence management.

ACN is proud to be the only online provider of the Graduate Certificate in Stomal Therapy Nursing.

Career opportunities may include:

- Specialist nursing roles
- Clinical education roles
- Management roles.

### Course overview

Guided by the philosophy of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses and the core values of the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists, this course prepares nurses who want to specialise in this field with the knowledge and the clinical skills to excel.

Students are equipped with the broad theoretical framework for the stomal therapy nurse role and the ability to competently provide comprehensive nursing care for clients who have had, or are about to have, stoma formation, wounds or fistulae.

The units of study provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to provide holistic nursing care to promote continence, effectively evaluate stomal therapy interventions with particular attention to the person's adaptation in the long term and the ability to effectively assess, manage and evaluate wounds or incontinence in a variety of health care settings.

This course enables students to:

- demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes required of the stomal therapy nurse within their speciality context, and benchmark against appropriate professional standards
- develop critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills using multiple modes of inquiry and a collaborative approach
- analyse the communication skills used to establish effective interpersonal relationships with clients, their families/carers and the interdisciplinary health care team
- critically evaluate nursing practice against research and current literature to support the provision of contemporary evidence-based nursing care
- reflect on the social, ethical and cultural issues affecting people and their families, thereby providing safe, holistic and person-centred health care
- examine leadership, mentoring and educational skills that contribute to a high standard of nursing care and practice development in the health care setting.



