

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Primary Care Nursing



Why study at Melbourne?

If you are passionate about improving the health of all Australians through nursing, and have a thirst for life long learning, then this University of Melbourne course is for you.

Are you currently working in a primary care setting, such as general practice, schools or community health, or thinking of changing career direction?

Are you looking to expand your scope of practice?

This distance education course will suit your location and work/life balance.

It is currently the most clinically relevant course on offer for the professional practice of a primary care nurse in Australia.

Ultimately, the course will assist to supply a skilled workforce to meet the health care needs of people through all stages of their life.

Studying at The University of Melbourne opens the door to a world of opportunities.

About the Certificate/Diploma in Primary Care Nursing

This distance education course is a tailored course developed by experienced practice nurses and general practitioners for Division 1 nurses. The course will complement their previous work experience, and reflects the latest policy developments in the primary care field.

It will prepare nurses to:

- > be a vital member of the general practice/primary care team;
- > contribute to the clinical care of patients;
- > be involved in quality improvement processes;
- > facilitate change in the practice setting;
- > improve access and health outcomes for patients;
- > provide better management of chronic conditions and an increased focus on prevention.

By supporting practice nurses to undertake this course general practitioners will be provided with reassurance that the nurses working in their practice are professionally and clinically prepared to take on a complex nursing role in a challenging environment.

Additional clinical skills will add capacity to the general practice business model.

“The subjects are clinically relevant and strongly inform my role working as an advanced primary care nurse. The support is fantastic and the staff very approachable. I have, through this course, been inspired to move towards a nurse practitioner role in primary care. I would highly recommend this course to other nurses.”

Ellen Rowatt a recent graduate.

How is this course delivered?

The course is delivered by distance education and some subjects require attendance at a one day face-to-face workshop.

The course pathway is as follows:

- > 2 core subjects and 1 elective subject to obtain the Certificate over 1-2 years
- > 3 core subjects and 3 elective subjects to obtain the Diploma over 2-4 years

Career opportunities

This course enables practice nurses to build the knowledge needed to have primary care nursing identified as a nursing specialty and prepare future leaders in this specialty.

Completion of the Diploma will prepare you to be an advanced primary care nurse and provides credit towards the Master of Advanced Nursing Practice (Melbourne School of Health Sciences, Nursing) with the option of preparation for Nurse Practitioner endorsement.

Who is eligible?

- > Australian Registered Nurse (Division 1 in Victoria) or an equivalent approved overseas qualification
- > A minimum one year clinical experience

Fees and scholarships

- > Local students may be eligible for financial assistance through FEE-HELP or HECS-HELP
- > Various scholarships are available: for details go to Royal College of Nursing Australia www.rcna.org.au

For details on fees and course selection criteria go to: www.gp.unimelb.edu.au/prospective_students/pgrad/pcn.html



Subjects

Core

- > Chronic Disease Management
- > Preventive Health Care
- > Quality Systems and Safety

Electives

- > Mental Health in Primary Care
- > Youth Health in Primary Care
- > Immunisation and Travel Health

- > Women's Health Screening
- > Significant Issues in Women's Health
- > Pregnancy Care in General Practice
- > Sexual and Reproductive Health
- > Sexually Transmissible Infections

- > Applications of Clinical Pharmacology 1
- > Evidence for Practice

Individual subjects

Enrolment in a single subject is also available via the University's Community Access Program (CAP).

How do I apply?

Go to: www.gp.unimelb.edu.au/prospective_students/pgrad/pcn.html

More information

T: +61 3 8344 7276

F: +61 3 9347 6136

E: gp-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au

W: www.gp.unimelb.edu.au

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