

Department of General Practice
The University of Melbourne

*Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma
In Primary Care Nursing*

Prospectus 2009

The University of Melbourne

Department of General Practice Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Primary Care Nursing

The Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Primary Care Nursing enables health professionals to provide more comprehensive and evidence based care in the significant areas of sexual and reproductive health, women's health, youth health and chronic conditions. At the same time it teaches strategies for health promotion in a primary care setting, risk management and advanced practice. Commonwealth government policy priorities in primary health care include an enhanced role for the practice nurse and this has been recognised in the various funding initiatives announced by the Commonwealth government. This program is delivered by distance education to make the education as flexible and accessible as possible.

Course/Program Objectives

Postgraduate Certificate

On completion of the Certificate in Primary Care Nursing students should be able to:

- Provide an evidence-based approach to clinical care in a range of basic clinical areas of their choice (e.g. chronic disease, health promotion, women's health and youth health) that builds on their previous clinical nursing experience
- Communicate with patients in primary care using a patient-centred and preventive approach
- Contribute to the management of clinical conditions in primary care

Postgraduate Diploma

On completion of the Diploma in Primary Care Nursing students should be able to

- Provide further evidence based approaches to a greater range of advanced clinical areas of their choice that builds on the previous subjects completed
- Practice effectively patient centred and preventive clinical care
- Manage the clinical care of patients across their lifecycle in a holistic way and engender health promotion strategies in primary care.

Entry Requirements

Applicants for the Postgraduate Certificate are selected from:

Australian and overseas qualified nurses who hold a 3 year degree or diploma of nursing or an approved equivalent

AND have at last two years professional experience in a clinical setting.

Applicants for the Postgraduate Diploma are selected from:

Australian or overseas qualified nurses who hold a 3 year degree or diploma of nursing or approved equivalent AND have at least two years professional experience in a clinical setting.

Course/program structure

The course will consist of fifteen 12.5 point subjects from which students choose four subjects for a certificate and eight subjects for a diploma;

Year 1/2

Semester 1

- 585 890 *Taking Pap tests: Theory and Practice*
- 585 895 *Primary Care of Type 2 Diabetes*
- 585 897 *Youth Health in Primary Care*
- 585 699 *Advanced Nursing Practice in Primary Care*
- 585 881 *Risk Management in Primary Care*
- 505 432 *Sexually Transmissible Infections*
- 585 883 *Pregnancy Care in General Practice*
- 585 891 *Significant Issues in Women's Health*

Semester 2

- 585 896 *Preventive Health Care*
- 585 894 *Management of common chronic diseases*
- 585 890 *Taking Pap tests: Theory and Practice*
- 585 881 *Risk Management in Primary Care*
- 585 893 *Communication Skills in General Practice*
- 514 835 *Applications of Clinical Pharmacology 1*
- 585 892 *Responding to Women in Primary Care.*
- 505 433 *Sexual and Reproductive Health*
- 514 831 *Evidence for Practice*

Students can elect to study one or two subjects per semester. Students who enrol in the PG Certificate can elect to continue on to the PG Diploma. Students who enrol in the PG Diploma can elect to exit and be awarded the PG Certificate following successful completion of 50 points of study. Selected subjects are available to students enrolled in the Master of Advanced Nursing.

Taking Pap Tests: theory and practice

Code: 585-890

Title of Subject: Taking Pap Tests: theory and practice

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semesters 1 & 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 128 hours (includes 8 hours face to face workshop, reading course materials, CD Rom, all activities and assessments)

Description:

This subject involves the theory and practice of sensitive pap testing. Innovative teaching and learning techniques, including regular teleconferences and support from University academic staff and clinical preceptors (supervisors).

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Understand the conceptual basis and underlying principles of screening and apply these principles to cervical screening
- Conduct Pap tests in an appropriate and sensitive manner utilizing appropriate communication strategies
- Understand and communicate pap test results to women
- Understand and apply best practice as defined in the current National Standards for Nurse pap Smear Providers

Prescribed Texts: None

Generic Skills:

- An ability to plan strategies for improving the management of information in the workplace
- An ability to work with colleagues to develop best practice in the delivery of health related programs

Assessment:

Theoretical Component

- 1 Attendance at workshop 8 hours (Early in semester) Pass/fail hurdle requirement
- 2 Resource portfolio equivalent to 2,000 words (Mid semester) 60%
- 3 Written Assignment of 1,000 words (Mid semester) 40%

Clinical Component

- 4 Professional practice folio which must include evidence of clinical competency consistent with The National Standards for Nurse Pap Test Providers (End of semester) Pass/Fail hurdle requirement

Primary Care of Type 2 Diabetes

Code: 585-895

Title of Subject: Primary Care of Type 2 Diabetes

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Dr John Furler

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessment)

Description:

This subject will explore the pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. The principles of diabetes care will be explored with a focus on the scope of practice of the nurse providing clinical care, psychosocial support and education within a multidisciplinary framework.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Understand the pathophysiology of Type 2 diabetes
- Identify the risk factors associated with Type 2 diabetes
- Contribute to the prevention, screening, and diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes
- Educate patients in self management of Type 2 diabetes
- Develop multidisciplinary management plans for patients with Type 2 diabetes within the primary health care setting.

Generic Skills:

- To enhance critical thinking skills
- To further enhance clinical skills
- To further develop written and oral communication skills

Prescribed Texts: None

Assessment:

- 1 Two 1000 word case studies due mid semester (40%)
- 2 Structured review of medical records equivalent to 500 words due end of semester (20% hurdle requirement)
- 3 2000 word written assignment due end of semester (40%)
- 4 Reflective journal due end of semester (Pass/fail hurdle requirement)

Youth Health in Primary Care

Code: 585-897

Title of Subject: Youth Health in Primary Care

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Dr Lena Sanci

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 124 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities, assessment and workshop attendance)

Description:

This subject will provide a theoretical framework for understanding young people's development and their health needs, health risk screening and assessment and brief intervention strategies for mild health risk behaviour. The linkage role of the practice nurse will also be covered including multidisciplinary care of high-risk youth with other local youth agencies. Medicolegal aspects of care with younger adolescents and helping the general practice be youth friendly will also be covered along with strategies for communicating with parents and adolescents.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Understand the developmental perspective of young people
- Understand the major health issues facing youth today
- Communicate effectively with young people including about their health service rights such as confidentiality
- Conduct a psychosocial health risk screen of young people and assess risk status. Provide relevant brief intervention or referral plans for more complex problems.

Generic Skills:

- To enhance critical thinking skills
- To further enhance clinical skills
- To further develop written and oral communication skills

Prescribed Texts: None

Assessment:

- 1 Patient interview 20 minutes due mid semester (50%)
- 2 Audit of health risk screening with 10 young people and reflections due end of semester (50%)
- 3 Attendance at compulsory communication skills workshop (Pass/fail hurdle requirement)

Advanced Nursing Practice in Primary Care

Code: 585 699

Title of Subject: Advanced Nursing Practice in Primary Care

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessments)

Description:

This subject focuses on advanced nursing practice in primary care. This involves areas such as leadership in a multidisciplinary environment, initiating systems change, implementing evidence based practice and research to improve health outcomes, new models of comprehensive complex team care e.g. nurse-led clinics.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Describe innovation, change management and leadership models relevant to multidisciplinary teams
- Demonstrate advanced evaluation and research skills of complex care in general practice
- Demonstrate advanced skills in implementing evidence based practice and guidelines for health outcomes
- Demonstrate the reflective skills to mentor, educate and provide leadership in a multidisciplinary team
- Critically appraise new models of nursing care within general practice

Generic Skills:

- To further develop written and verbal communication skills
- To enhance leadership skills

Prescribed Texts: None

Assessment:

- 1 Career portfolio equivalent to 1000words due early semester (30%)
- 2 1000 word case study due mid-semester (30%)
- 3 Reflective journal throughout semester due end of semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)
- 4 2000 word written assignment due end of semester (40%)

Risk Management in Primary Care

Code: 585 881

Title of Subject: Risk Management in Primary Care

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1 & 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Assoc Prof William Wong

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessments)

Description:

This course will explore concepts of risk management as they relate to the primary care setting. The principles of safety and quality improvement will underpin all topics covered. Content will include improving practice systems, infection control and effective triage. Topics will have practical application for the practice nurse with skills in preparing for the accreditation of a general practice.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Understand the systems required to manage risk within general practice
- Outline the principles of effective triage
- Describe evidence based strategies to minimise the spread of infection within general practice
- Develop quality improvement processes applicable to general practice

Generic Skills:

- To enhance critical thinking skills
- To further develop written and oral communication skills
- To further develop skills working in a multidisciplinary time

Prescribed Texts: None

Assessment:

- 1 1000 word case study due early semester (20%)
- 2 2000 word written assignment due mid-semester (50%)
- 3 1000 word written assignment due end of semester (30%)

Sexually Transmissible Infections

Code: 505-432

Title of the Subject: Sexually Transmissible Infections (Offered by Melbourne Sexual Health)

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessments)

Subject Description

Topic-based seminar class on the common presentations of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and the principles of diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmissible infections. Teaching will be given on the need for confidentiality and partner notification as they pertain to STIs. The lecture topics include: urethral discharges in men, vaginal discharges, genital herpes, wart virus infection & Pap smears, syphilis, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, proctitis & enteritis, urological issues & UTIs, laboratory diagnosis, confidentiality & partner notification. The subject will be offered via a standard classroom lecture format, and will also be offered via distance-education utilising CD-Rom and written material. This enables the subject to be offered to those living in regional and rural Australia.

Prescribed Texts: Recommended

- Russell, D., Bradford, D. and Fairley, C. (Eds.) *Sexual Health Medicine: A Clinical Approach*, IP Communications, 2005.

Assessment

- Completion of 2 short answer questions (500 words each) for 10 weeks of each semester

Pregnancy Care in General Practice

Code: 585 883

Title of Subject: Pregnancy Care in General Practice

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessments)

Description:

This subject provides an introduction to pregnancy care in the primary care setting. Its purpose is to develop the clinician's knowledge and skills in the provision of care to pregnant women assessed at low risk of complications. Topics covered include the physiology of pregnancy related to risk assessment, tests and investigations, lifestyle considerations and clinical assessment.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Relate the physiology of pregnancy to care provided to a pregnant women at low risk of complications
- Understand the different models of maternity care available locally and the scope of practice of all health professionals involved in providing pregnancy care
- Provide information and education to pregnant women consistent with evidence based clinical practice guidelines
- Conduct clinical assessments for maternal well being and fetal growth in collaboration with the General Practitioner
- Develop a resource kit on local services providing information and education on childbirth, breast feeding, preparation for parenthood and local maternal and child health centres.

Generic Skills:

- To enhance skills in the provision of woman centred care
- To further develop communication skills

Prescribed Texts:

- 3 Centres Consensus Guidelines on Antenatal Care, Mercy Hospital for Women, Southern Health and Royal Women's Hospital, 2006 (<http://www.3centres.com.au/>)

Assessment:

- 1 Pregnancy resource folio equivalent to 2000 words due mid-semester (50%)
- 2 2000 word written assignment due end of semester (50%)

Clinical Component

- 3 Professional practice folio which must include evidence of competency in clinical pregnancy assessment skills due end of semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)

Significant Issues in Women's Health

Code: 585-891

Title of Subject: Significant Issues in Women's Health

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Subject Co-ordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Time Commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessment)

Description

This subject addresses the impact of significant milestones across the lifecycle on women's well-being and sense of self. It includes issues from adolescence, the childbearing years and parenting, the middle years, menopause and after. It aims to engender knowledge of the issues that impact on women's health including depression and other mood disorders, body image, sexuality, abuse, work and family and aspects of loss and grief.

Learning Objectives

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Describe the impact of socio-psychological factors on women's health and well-being
- Critically discuss the impact of women's roles and responsibilities on their health and well-being
- Explain how significant biological milestones in a woman's life affect her health and well-being
- Discuss the health challenges faced by women from minority groups, including cultural minorities, women with disabilities and lesbian women.

Assessment

1. 1000 word written assignment due mid semester (30%)
2. 2000 word assignment covering all key aspects of the subject due mid semester (40%)
3. Preparation of a presentation including all materials equivalent to 1000 words (30%)
4. Reflective journal due end of semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)

Preventive Health Care

Code: 585-896

Title of Subject: Preventive Health Care

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities, assessment and workshop attendance)

Description:

This subject will explore the theory and practice of health promotion and illness prevention in primary care. It will discuss the social model of health that recognises that a range of social, cultural and economic factors influence people's health and well-being. It will focus on weight, diet, and exercise as well as on smoking and other risk behaviours and their impact on health. It will also prepare students to undertake health assessments. Strategies for empowering individual patients and communities to maintain a healthy lifestyle will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Critically appraise current theories on promoting health in primary care
- Describe the social model of health and its application in primary care
- Understand current evidence based strategies for promoting healthy weight and lifestyle and smoking cessation
- Appreciate the facilitators and barriers to maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Explain key strategies for empowering patients to maintain a healthy weight and diet and to cease smoking
- Conduct health assessments

Generic Skills:

- To enhance critical thinking skills
- To further enhance clinical skills
- To further develop written and oral communication skills

Prescribed Texts: Recommended

- St John W and Keleher H (2007) Community Nursing Practice: Theory, Issues and Skills, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest NSW.

Assessment:

- 1 1,500-word written assignment due mid semester (30%)
- 2 2,500-word written assignment due end of semester (50%)
- 3 Health assessment audit equivalent to 500 words due mid-semester (20%)
- 4 Reflective journal due end of semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)

Management of Common Chronic Conditions

Code: 585-894

Title of the Subject: Management of Common Chronic Conditions

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessment)

Description:

This subject focuses on the role of the primary care nurse in the management of individuals with asthma, chronic obstructive airways disease, hypertension and ischemic heart disease. The course content includes the pathophysiology of these common conditions related to evidence based management principles and conducting health assessments. Strategies to involve patients in educational activities and the development of their management plans will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Understand the pathophysiology of asthma, chronic obstructive airways disease, hypertension and ischemic heart disease
- Describe the current management guidelines for these conditions
- Describe appropriate health assessment relevant to the patient's chronic condition and the nurse's scope of practice
- Contribute to a multidisciplinary team approach to care for individuals with common chronic diseases
- Establish and maintain good linkages with community resources and services
- Provide effective education and support in the management of common chronic diseases

Generic Skills:

- To further enhance oral and written skills
- To further enhance clinical skills
- To enhance skills in effective teamwork

Prescribed Texts: None

Assessment:

- 1 Two 1,500-word case studies due mid-semester (60%)
- 2 Resource folio equivalent to 1,000 words due end of semester (40%)

Communication Skills in General Practice

Code: 585-893

Title of Subject: Advanced Communication Skills

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Subject Co-ordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites/corequisites: Nil

Time Commitment: 128 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities, assessments and workshop attendance)

Description

Communicating effectively with patients is an integral part of clinical practice. It is well understood that there are specific aspects to communication that must be addressed to achieve a successful consultation. This subject will utilise a patient centred approach to the primary care consultation and will further develop active listening skills as well as addressing specific issues that may arise in the consultation and work setting, for example, breaking bad news, responding to disclosure of sensitive matters, negotiating with team members.

Learning Objectives

On completion of this subject students should:

- Explain the theoretical principles of effective communication and consulting skills including the impact of gender
- Demonstrate skills in reflective learning and reflective practice
- Demonstrate an advanced level of communication and consulting skills that enhance satisfaction and clinical outcomes for patients
- Engender a patient-centred approach and shared understanding with patients
- Understand the role of effective communication skills in the prevention of medico-legal issues

Assessment

- 1 Workshop attendance 8 hours mid semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)
- 2 20 minute communication skills assessment due mid-semester (40%)
- 3 Participation in online reflective tasks due end of semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)
- 4 Two 20 minute patient interviews due end of semester (60%)

Applications of Clinical Pharmacology 1

Code: 514-835

Title of the Subject: Applications of Clinical Pharmacology 1 (Offered by the School of Nursing)

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 2

Mode of Delivery: On Campus (NOTE: This is not offered as a distance course)

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: A/Prof Elizabeth Manias

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Contact Hours: 36 hours lectures

Subject Description

This subject has been primarily developed to address the endorsement requirements for nurses seeking to apply for nurse practitioner status through the Nurses Board of Victoria.

The Pharmacology and Therapeutics subject, which is also required for nurse practitioner endorsement, predominantly focuses on the mechanisms of action of medications.

The subject, Applications of Clinical Pharmacology, focuses on the fundamental clinical, social, political and ethical principles of medication management rather than the science underpinning mechanisms of action. The concepts of pain management, adverse drug reactions and medication use across the lifespan will be considered. Students will examine clinical decision making as a framework for gathering and organising medication information, planning, prescribing, administering, documenting and evaluating medication use. Consideration will be given to the roles played by different members of the health care team in medication management, including the medical practitioner, pharmacist, and nurse. Students will develop an awareness of the learning and teaching strategies for patient education and the government policies that are relevant to medication administration. Commonwealth and State laws affecting the control of medication will also be considered. Students will also address the socio-cultural and ethical issues that affect the relationship between the nurse and the patient, and will examine medication orders from a variety of contexts.

Learning Objectives

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate written and oral communication skills necessary to analyse the medication management of a patient;
- Demonstrate problem solving skills in analysing medication management according to principles of clinical decision making;
- Analyse how the Commonwealth and State laws relating to medication control impact on their current area of practice;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the effects of medication use in paediatric and geriatric populations;
- Critically evaluate medication orders for patients in the practice setting; Demonstrate knowledge of applied pharmacology as a vehicle for research, evidence based practice and policy development in the practice setting.

Prescribed Texts: Recommended

- Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT), Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) (2007). *Australian medicines handbook*. Adelaide: ASCEPT, PSA, RCGP.
- Department of Human Services and Health and the Pharmaceutical Health and Rational Use of Medicines (PHARM) Committee (1994). *A policy on the quality use of medicines*. Woden: Department of Human Services and Health.

- *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act* 1981. Act No. 9719/1981.
- *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations* 1995. Statutory Rule No. 63/1995.
- Galbraith A., Bullock S., & Manias, E. (2007). *Fundamentals of pharmacology: A text for nurses and allied health professionals*, 5th ed. Frenchs Forest: Prentice Hall Health.
- *Nurses Act* 1993 Act No. 111/1993.

- Rang, H.P., Dale, M.M., Ritter, J.M., & Moore, P.K. (2003). *Pharmacology*, 5th ed. New York: Churchill Livingstone.
- Writing Groups for Therapeutic Guidelines. Various titles. North Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd.

Assessment

- Written assignment of 1500 – 2000 words (45% of total mark)
- 2 hour written examination (55% of total mark).

Responding to Women in Primary Care

Code: 585-892

Title of Subject: Responding to Women in Primary Care

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Subject Co-ordinator: Assoc Prof Kelsey Hegarty

Prerequisites/corequisites: Completion of 585-891 Significant Issues in Women's Health

Time Commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessments)

Description

This subject utilises a woman centred evidence based approach to the management of women's health. It focuses specifically on emotional well-being, body image, sexuality, reproductive and maternal health, the menopause and other conditions specific to women across their lifecycle. It aims to encourage students to support women in making informed choices about their own well being, including accessing conventional and complementary therapies.

Learning Objectives

On completion of this subject students should be able to:

- Discuss the management of common issues in primary care (depression, anxiety, eating disorders, partner abuse, sexual issues, contraception, antenatal care and menopause)
- Use effective women centred skills to explain the management of these conditions to women
- Critically appraise information about management of these issues
- Choose and carry out appropriate management for an individual woman
- Utilise a psycho-social approach with all women
- Be aware of their own beliefs and attitudes towards women from minority groups including cultural minorities, women with disabilities and lesbian women

Assessment

- 1 1,500 word written assignment due mid-semester (30%)
- 2 1,000 word written assignment due end of semester (20%)
- 3 Two 15 minute patient interviews due end of semester (50%)
- 4 Reflective journal during semester (pass/fail hurdle requirement)

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Code: 505-433

Title of the Subject: Sexual and Reproductive Health (Offered by Melbourne Sexual Health)

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 2

Mode of Delivery: Distance

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Dr Hennie Williams

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Estimated time commitment: 120 hours (includes reading course materials, all activities and assessments)

Subject Description

Topic-based seminar class on the common presenting complaints in sexual and reproductive health medicine, and the principles of diagnosis and treatment of these common sexual and reproductive health presentations. The student will gain an understanding of the wider issues of sexual and reproductive medicine in our society, and will understand the sexual health needs of specific groups within the community. The lecture topics include: contraception, gynaecological conditions and pelvic inflammatory disease, sexual assault, sexual dysfunction, unplanned pregnancy, adolescent sexual health, sexual health in midlife and beyond, gay, lesbian and transgender sexual health, vulval disorders, partner notification and contact tracing, vulval disorders and STIs in pregnancy. The subject will be offered via a standard classroom lecture format, and will also be offered via distance-education utilising CD-Rom or DVD and written material. This enables the subject to be offered to those living in regional and rural Australia.

Generic Skills Gained

Completion of this subject will enable the student to think more critically, improve their written and oral communication skills and incorporate evidence based information into their clinical practice. More specifically students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the sexual and reproductive health issues relevant to Australia and develop skills to independently reflect upon and analyse the barriers to optimum sexual and reproductive health for Australians

Prescribed Texts: Recommended

- Russell, D., Bradford, D. and Fairley, C., (Eds.) *Sexual Health Medicine: A Clinical Approach*, IP Communications, 2005

Assessment

- Completion of 2 short answer questions (500 words each) for 10 weeks of each semester

Evidence for Practice

Code: 514-831

Title of the Subject: Evidence for Practice (Offered by the School of Nursing)

Credit Points: 12.5

Semester Offered: Semester 1 & 2

Mode of Delivery: On campus or online

Level: Postgraduate

Coordinator: Dr Denise Harrison

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites: Nil

Contact Hours: 36 hours of lectures and tutorials (on campus) or the equivalent on-line. Students are expected to devote approximately 6-10 hours per week to this subject.

Subject Description

This subject focuses on the appraisal and use of research in clinical practice. Its purpose is to develop practitioners' confidence and skills in critical consumption of research and evaluation for use in the workplace. Topics covered include: overview of common research and evaluation methods and issues; Internet and library search skills to assist in preparing a literature review; the process of change and strategies for implementing change in a clinical environment. Students will examine research and evaluate findings on an issue identified from their own practice. They will conduct a comprehensive literature review on a clinical intervention in their own practice, evaluate the evidence on which the clinical intervention was based and then apply the findings to their own practice setting.

Learning Objectives

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

- Identify common research and evaluation methods and practices
- Develop literature search skills
- Critically review research reports
- Appraise research in relation to its value to clinical practice
- Apply research findings to clinical practice
- Develop research and evaluation skills
- An understanding of the changing knowledge base in the specialist area

Generic Skills Gained

- An appreciation of the design, conduct and reporting of original research
- A capacity to articulate their knowledge and understanding in written modes of communication
- A capacity to manage competing demands on time, including self-directed project work
- A profound respect for truth and intellectual integrity, and for the ethics of scholarship

Assessment

- Online students: online participation in at least 75% of discussions Pass/fail Hurdle
- Written assignment of 1500 words due mid semester (35% of total mark)
- Written assignment of 2500 words due end of semester (70% of total mark).