

Faculty of Nursing and Health

The Faculty of Nursing and Health operates in conjunction with the Sydney Adventist Hospital to offer a three-year Bachelor of Nursing undergraduate degree. Students enrolling in the Bachelor of Nursing commence study on the Cooranbong Campus near Lake Macquarie, and complete the final five semesters of the course at the Sydney Campus located in the grounds of the Sydney Adventist Hospital (also known as the “San”).

The Bachelor of Nursing course is designed to prepare students to practise as a registered nurse in a variety of clinical settings. Graduates obtain registration with the Nurses Registration Board of New South Wales. The course provides the knowledge-base for professional nurses, and develops the attitudes, clinical and interpersonal skills essential in providing Christian holistic nursing care. The structure of the course integrates the concepts of health and illness with related health and nursing care strategies suited to situations across the human life span from infancy, through childhood and adolescence, to adulthood and advanced age. As students progress through the course they are expected to develop enhanced skills of problem solving, critical thinking and knowledge discovery techniques that will improve their practice as graduates.

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Nursing, students may elect to complete an additional year and graduate with the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours). The Faculty also offers the Bachelor of Nursing (Conversion) course to those practising nurses wishing to upgrade to degree level qualifications.

A range of postgraduate courses is also available in both Nursing and in Health (see the Avondale Postgraduate Handbook 2005–2006).

Research Centre

Australasian Research Institute

Head of Centre:

Dr Ross Grant

BEd Avondale, MAppSc UTS, PhD UNSW

Health Science, Microbiology

Staff

Dean

Paul T Race

BA, MHA, PhD, RN, PN, MRCNA

Gwen M Wilkinson

DipT(Nurs), BEd(Nurs), MA, RN, CM, CCC, MRCNA

Assistant Dean, Nursing and Health—Cooranbong Campus

Senior Lecturers

Malcolm I Anderson

BAppSc(Nursing) Canberra CAE, MA(Ed) Macq, PhD Macq, RN, ONC, FRCNA

Nursing

Paul T Race

BA UNE, MHA UNSW, PhD Macq, RN, PN, MRCNA

Nursing

Alison M Smedley

RN, CM, Cert CE, BHSce(Nursing) SCU, GradCert C&FHN(Tresillian), GradDip FET(USQ), MEd USQ, MRCNA, MACMI

Nursing

Gwen M Wilkinson

DipT Cumberland Coll, BEd Armidale CAE, MA Loma Linda, RN, CM, CorCare Cert, MRCNA

Nursing

Lecturers

Katherine Cooper

BN Avondale, MN (Administration and Health Promotion) Avondale, RN, MRCNA

Nursing

Tamera Gosling

BN Uni SA, GradDipHSt (Health Promotion) Avondale, MN (Hons) (Health Promotion) Avondale, RN, MRCNA

Nursing

James Jays

RN DipTchNurs Cumberland Coll, GradDipAAppSc(AdvClinNurs) Syd, GradDipEd(Admin) Deakin, RN

Nursing

Jenny M Kum Yuen

DipAppSc(Com Hlth) Lincoln, BAppSc(Adv Nurs) Lincoln, MA Macq, MPH UNSW, RN

Nursing

Michael Steed

GradDip SE West Syd, MHSc(PHC) UWS, RN, PN

Nursing

Drene Somasundram

BA Andrews, MA Andrews

Chaplain

Nursing Degrees

Bachelor of Nursing

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)

Bachelor of Nursing (Conversion)

Note on undergraduate course structure, 2005

The Bachelor of Nursing course will retain a five subject per semester configuration in 2005.

EFTSL (Effective Full Time Student Load)

One EFTSL is the standard study load for one year of a course of study. The standard load for each year is the total number of subjects that students are required to complete in the designated year of the course. In the Bachelor of Nursing full-time students enrol in five subjects per semester or ten subjects per year. All undergraduate subjects in the Bachelor of Nursing at Avondale College have an EFTSL value of 0.1 unless otherwise stated in the Handbook. That is, each subject is valued at 0.1 of a full-time load.

Credit points and workload

A full load in the Bachelor of Nursing is considered to be 30 credit points per year. Normally each subject of 0.1 EFTSL value is worth 3 credit points. Three credit points indicate that the subject requires approximately nine hours per week to complete the course (including all classes and assignments) or 120 hours per subject over the whole semester. All undergraduate Bachelor of Nursing subjects listed in this Handbook are worth three credit points unless otherwise stated in the subject synopses.

Bachelor of Nursing

Course code: 4030

Course coordinator: Dr Paul Race

The Bachelor of Nursing course is designed to prepare a student to function as a registered nurse, caring for people across the life span in a variety of clinical settings. The course provides not only the knowledge necessary for the professional nurse but also the attitudes and clinical and interpersonal skills essential to provide holistic nursing care in a variety of clinical settings. The organisation of subjects in the course integrates the concepts of health and illness and related health and nursing care strategies across the life span from infancy, through childhood and adolescence, to adulthood and older age. As students progress through the course they are expected to develop enhanced problem solving, critical thinking and knowledge discovery techniques that will improve their practice as graduates.

The first semester of the course is undertaken on the Cooranbong Campus. Subsequent semesters are based at the Sydney Campus that is co-located with the Sydney Adventist Hospital (the “San”).

Students may commence the course in the first semester, or part-time students can enter the program in either semester of the academic year.

Duration

Three years full-time or equivalent part-time.

Credit points

90 credit points

Mode of delivery

Predominantly on campus but with flexible delivery of some subjects (this may include intensive classroom teaching, student self-directed learning, contract learning, distance education supported by print or electronic media or a combination of approaches).

Abbreviation of course title

BN

Accreditation

The degree is accredited by the NSW Department of Education and Training and by the Nurses and Midwives Board New South Wales.

Nurse registration

On successful completion of the course, graduates are eligible to apply for nurse registration in NSW, Australia.

After first registering in NSW, students may then also apply for registration in other Australian states, and New Zealand, due to mutual recognition legislation. Students from other countries should ascertain the requirements for those countries in which they intend to register.

Entry requirements

The general entry requirements for Avondale degree courses are stated in the Academic Policies section of the Handbook.

In addition to the Avondale College General Admission Requirements, the nursing course has specific entry requirements as indicated:

- HSC (or equivalent) Chemistry or completion of an appropriate chemistry bridging course.
- Current first aid certificate from an accredited course. It is strongly recommended that this be obtained prior to the commencement of the course or must be completed by the end of first semester.
- HSC (or equivalent) Biology is recommended.
- All students for whom English is not a first language and who did not undertake their senior schooling in English and obtain a satisfactory pass in English in a British O-level examination are required to demonstrate proficiency in English by obtaining an overall IELTS score of 6.5 or better, with a written score of at least 6.5 and no other individual band score less than 6.0 (post 1987).
- A word processing competency test is undertaken in the first two weeks of semester. A satisfactory result must be obtained in word processing by the completion of first semester.
- An academic bridging program (skills refresher and orientation to tertiary education) is offered for mature age students or others with special requirements for admission to degree courses.
- A criminal records check will be undertaken at the commencement of the course as per NSW legislation. An unsatisfactory criminal clearance may result in the student being unable to complete clinical requirements and hence may be unable to continue in the BN program.
- There is an expectation of adhering to the NSW Health department vaccination guidelines in order to access clinical practice areas. This may require vaccination for various diseases as required by the Health Department and there may be a cost associated with this that students would need to meet. The cost will depend on the previous exposure to diseases and the vaccinations required as a result of this. Further detail on this is available from the NSW Health Department, the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia or the Faculty of Nursing and Health.

Equipment and uniform requirements

Students will need to purchase a range of equipment in order to complete the Bachelor of Nursing degree. The Faculty of Nursing and Health coordinates this upon commencement of the course. This includes a designated student uniform for undertaking clinical practice (including trousers, two shirts, cardigan and watch), a stethoscope, Faculty-approved personal protective equipment such as goggles/glasses and other equipment that may be determined as necessary to protect the individual in the workplace.

Course structure

The course includes study in numerous general and specialty nursing areas such as medical, surgical, maternal and child health, mental health, community, aged care and nursing care of the developmentally disabled person. Related subject material from the physical, biological and behavioural sciences is integrated into the course to present a holistic perspective of nursing.

The course is structured as follows:

Nursing Studies	54
Health Sciences and Behavioural Studies	36
Total credit points	90

Year 1

Semester 1

NU101	Foundations of Health and Nursing	3
SC145	Health Science I	3
SC150	Health Science II	3
PS110	Introductory Psychology and Sociology	3
CR115	Belief Systems and Health Care	3

Semester 2

NU102	Clinical Practice II	3
NU103	Primary Health Care	3
SC146	Health Science III	3
NU104	Utilising Research	3
PS120	Legal Issues in Health	3

Year 2

Semester 1

NU201	Clinical Practice III	3
NU202	Medical/Surgical Nursing A	3
PS221	Childbearing Family Health Care	3
NU203	Promoting Holistic Health	3
CR201	Sociocultural Perspectives in Health	3

Semester 2

NU204	Clinical Practice IV	3
NU205	Medical/Surgical Nursing B	3
PS222	Child and Adolescent Health Care	3
NU206	Mental Health	3
CR202	Spiritual Care in Health	3

Year 3*Semester 1*

NU301	Clinical Practice V	3
NU302	Medical/Surgical Nursing C	3
PS313	Health Care of the Ageing Adult	3
NU303	Clinical Nursing Elective I	3
CR301	Ethics and Professional Accountability	3

Semester 2

NU304	Clinical Practice VI	3
NU305	High Dependency Nursing	3
NU307	Community Health and Population Focused Practice	3
NU306	Clinical Nursing Elective II	3
NU308	Professional Roles in Health and Nursing	3

Progression through the course

It is generally expected that students will complete the subjects in the order listed for the course in the Structure. Therefore the first-level (100-level) subjects would normally be completed before proceeding to second level (200-level) subjects. Specific corequisites and prerequisites are listed in the subject synopses section of this handbook. Exceptions to these progression rules may be made with approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Health.

Bachelor of Nursing

Year						
1	Level 1	NU101 Foundations of Health & Nursing	SC145 Health Science I	SC150 Health Science II	PS110 Introductory Psychology and Sociology	CR115 Belief Systems and Health Care
	Level 2	NU102 Clinical Practice II	NU103 Primary Health Care	SC146 Health Science III	NU104 Utilising Research	PS120 Legal Issues in Health
2	Level 3	NU201 Clinical Practice III	NU202 Medical/Surgical Nursing A	PS221 Childbearing Family Health Care	NU203 Promoting Holistic Health	CR201 Socio-cultural Perspectives in Health
	Level 4	NU204 Clinical Practice IV	NU205 Medical/Surgical Nursing B	PS222 Child and Adolescent Health Care	NU206 Mental Health	CR202 Spiritual Care in Health
3	Level 5	NU301 Clinical Practice V	NU302 Medical / Surgical Nursing C	PS313 Health Care of the Ageing Adult	NU303 Clinical Nursing Elective I	CR301 Ethics and Professional Accountability
	Level 6	NU304 Clinical Practice VI	NU305 High Dependency Nursing	PS307 Community Health and Population- Focused Practice	NU306 Clinical Nursing Elective II	NU308 Professional Roles in Health and Nursing

Semester organisation

The semesters are organised so that

- Semester 1 matches with the Cooranbong Campus program. Other semesters are scheduled across the year to take advantage of clinical learning opportunities and may commence earlier and finish later than the usual college program.
- Clinical practice days are scheduled across semesters on one day per week, or in a block structure of a number of weeks.

Clinical component

The clinical component of the course is undertaken as a clinical practice subject each semester. The content of this clinical subject is related to the areas being studied in the concurrent theoretical subjects. Some clinical placements are provided by the courtesy and cooperation of the Sydney Adventist Hospital, but there are many placements in other public/private hospitals, mental health facilities, paediatric units, care centres for developmentally disabled people, aged care and community facilities.

In order to maximise clinical learning there is occasionally a need to travel off campus to settings where specialist nursing practice is occurring. Where possible, students are transported to these venues but because of the variety of settings there is sometimes a requirement for students to travel to clinical learning venues themselves. It should be noted that clinical learning experiences are a compulsory component of the course.

Delivery approaches

Contemporary and proven approaches are utilised in the teaching of the course. These include flexible delivery of some course components, computer based learning, along with lectures, small group tutorial discussions, clinical skills demonstrations in simulated and real clinical environments and clinical learning in varied nursing areas.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods are varied within subjects and consist of major or minor essays, examinations, projects, tutorial presentations by students, short reports, clinical practice appraisals and clinical skill assessments. Examinations are held in approximately 60% of subjects. Others rely on different types of written assessments or clinical practice assessments.

Work experience

Students have the opportunity to request work at the Sydney Adventist Hospital to earn a proportion of their fees and living expenses in the holidays and semester breaks. While paid work experience in hospital wards does not form part of the course and is only available to student nurses in their own time, its value in providing educational

reinforcement, increased confidence and practical skills, as well as financial benefit, has led the Faculty of Nursing and Health to expect students to take advantage of this work experience.

Textbooks

Purchase of textbooks is at the student's discretion. The library will usually hold copies of the texts.

Transport costs

Some additional costs associated with transport to required clinical venues may arise. The actual cost will depend on the distance travelled and the transport used. A public bus service links the Sydney Campus to the city rail line.

Bachelor of Nursing (Honours)

Course code: 4050

Course coordinator: Dr Paul Race

The Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) degree is an extension of the Bachelor of Nursing, consisting of one year of full-time study or equivalent part-time study.

Entry requirements

Admission is on the basis of evidence of a Bachelor Nursing in which the student has achieved a minimum average grade of credit or current enrolment in a Bachelor of Nursing program in which the student has achieved a minimum average grade of credit in the first two years of the course.

Course structure

The Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) program enables the student to pursue a specific professional interest through a research program. The course is designed to lead the student to complete a substantial piece of research in the form of a thesis, within a limited time frame. The thesis length is between 15,000 words and a maximum of 20,000 words.

The honours year of the course is structured as follows:

NU450	Research Methods I (two contact hours per week)	3
NU451	Research Methods II (eight hours per semester)	3
NU461–467	Concepts in Clinical Nursing (two contact hours per week)	3
CR402	Interpersonal Relations: Holistic Perspectives (2 contact hours per week)	3
NU471	Thesis I	3
NU472	Thesis II	3
NU473	Thesis III	3
NU474	Thesis IV (Independent study/supervision)	3
	Total	24

Bachelor of Nursing (Conversion)

Course code: 1031 (from Certificate)
1032 (from Diploma)

Course coordinator: Dr Paul Race

A Bachelor of Nursing conversion course is available to Registered Nurses (RN) wishing to convert their nursing certificate or diploma qualification to a degree. Depending on the nursing qualification, certificate RNs would be expected to complete the degree over two years part-time, and diploma RNs over one year part-time. This award does not lead to eligibility to apply for registration as a nurse in NSW.