

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 may commence first semester study on either the Lake Macquarie or Sydney campus, 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 apply for registration with the Nurses and Midwives Board New South Wales. The course provides the knowledge-base for professional nurses, and develops the attitudes, clinical and interpersonal skills essential in providing 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. A Christian perspective on nursing and caring values is interwoven throughout the course. 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.

A range of postgraduate courses is also available in Nursing (see the Avondale College Postgraduate Handbook 2009–2010).

The Australasian Research Centre is co-located with the Faculty of Nursing and Health at the Sydney Campus.

Research Centre

Australasian Research Institute (ARI)

Head of Centre:

Dr Ross Grant

BEd Avondale, MAppSc UTS, PhD UNSW

Health Science, Microbiology

Staff

Dean

Dr Paul T Race

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

Nursing

Dr Alison M Smedley

BHSc(Nursing) SCU, GradCert C&FHN(Tresillian), GradDip FET USQ, MEd USQ, EdD ECU, RN, CM, MRCNA, MACMI

Assistant Course Coordinator

Dr Malcolm I Anderson

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

Graduate Studies Coordinator (Nursing)

Senior Lecturers

Dr Malcolm I Anderson

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

Nursing

Dr Paul T Race

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

Nursing

Dr Athena Sheehan

BN UTS, MN UTS, PhD UTS, RN, CM

Nursing

Dr Alison M Smedley

BHSc(Nursing) SCU, GradCert C&FHN(Tresillian), GradDip FET USQ, MEd USQ, EdD ECU, RN, CM, MRCNA, MACMI

Nursing

Lecturers

Wayne Bradshaw

DipTeach (Nursing) USyd, BEd (Nursing) UNE, MPH UNSW, CIT WINTEC, RN

Nursing

Katherine Cooper

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

Nursing

Tonia Crawford

DipAppSc (Nursing) Avondale, BHlthSc (Nursing) CSU, MHLthSc (Ed) USyd, RN, MRCNA

Nursing

Sonja Frischknecht

DipAppSc(Nursing) UTS, BN UTS, ICU Cert NSAHHS, MN USQ, RN

Nursing

Tamera Gosling

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

Nursing

Jenny M Kum Yuen
 DipAppSc(Com Hlth) Lincoln, BAppSc(Adv Nurs) Lincoln, MA
 Macq, MPH UNSW, RN
Nursing

Dr Drene Somasundram
 BA Andrews, MA Andrews, DProf Middlesex
Chaplain and Lecturer

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 units 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 may be undertaken on either the Lake Macquarie Campus or the Sydney 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. There is a maximum of eight years duration for completion of the degree requirements, including any time on leave or intermission.

Credit points

144 credit points

Mode of delivery

Predominantly on campus but with flexible delivery of some units (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). Over 1000 hours of clinical experience are also a requirement of the course.

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. Nurse registration requirements may be amended by the Nurses and Midwives Board at any time and can include additional language competency requirements.

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 College 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:

- 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)

An academic support program (skills refresher and orientation to tertiary education) is offered for students.

A criminal records check will be undertaken at the commencement of the course as per NSW legislation. A charge, payable by the student, is levied by the Health Department for this check. 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 a requirement to adhere 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, a stethoscope, and 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, and aged care. Related unit material from the physical, biological and behavioural sciences is integrated into the course to present an holistic perspective of nursing.

Year 1

Semester 1

NURS10100	Foundations of Health and Nursing	6 cr pts
HESC14700	Health Science I	6 cr pts
HESC14800	Health Science II	6 cr pts
HEPS11900	Introductory Psychology and Sociology	6 cr pts

Semester 2

CSTD10400	Spiritual Care in Health	6 cr pts
HESC14900	Health Science III	6 cr pts
NURS10200	Clinical Practice II	6 cr pts
NURS10300	Primary Health Care	6 cr pts

Year 2

Semester 1

NURS20200	Medical/Surgical Nursing A	6 cr pts
NURS20300	Clinical Practice III	6 cr pts
NURS20700	Utilising Research	6 cr pts
NURS20800	Promoting Holistic Health	6 cr pts

Semester 2

NURS20400	Clinical Practice IV	6 cr pts
NURS20500	Medical/Surgical Nursing B	6 cr pts
NURS20600	Mental Health	6 cr pts
NURS21900	Maternal, Child and Family Health	6 cr pts

Year 3

Semester 1

NURS30200	Medical/Surgical Nursing C	6 cr pts
NURS30300	Community Health Nursing	6 cr pts
NURS30500	Clinical Practice V	6 cr pts
NURS31900	Health Care of the Ageing Adult	6 cr pts

Semester 2

CSTD30400	Ethics and Professional Accountability	6 cr pts
NURS30600	Clinical Practice VI	6 cr pts
NURS30700	High Dependency Nursing	6 cr pts
NURS30800	Clinical Nursing Elective	6 cr pts

Progression through the course

It is generally expected that students will complete the units in the order listed for the course in the structure. Therefore the first-level (100-level) units would normally be completed before proceeding to second level (200-level) units. Specific

corequisites and prerequisites are listed in the unit 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	HESC14700 Health Science	HESC14800 Health Science II	HEPS11900 Introductory Psychology and Sociology	NURS10100 Foundations of Health and Nursing
	Level 2	HESC14900 Health Science III	NURS10300 Primary Health Care	CSTD10400 Spiritual Care in Health	NURS10200 Clinical Practice II <i>Prerequisite:</i> NURS10100
2	Level 3	NURS20200 Medical/Surgical Nursing A <i>Prerequisites:</i> HESC14700 HESC14800 NURS10200 HESC14900	NURS20800 Promoting Holistic Health	NURS20700 Utilising Research	NURS20300 Clinical Practice III <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS10200 HESC14900 <i>Corequisite:</i> NURS20200
	Level 4	NURS20500 Medical/Surgical Nursing B <i>Prerequisites:</i> HESC14700 HESC14800 NURS10200 HESC14900	NURS21900 Maternal, Child and Family Health <i>Prerequisites:</i> HESC14700 HESC14800	NURS20600 Mental Health <i>Prerequisite:</i> HEPS11900	NURS20400 Clinical Practice IV <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS10200 HESC14900 <i>Corequisites:</i> NURS20500, NURS21900, NURS20600
3	Level 5	NURS30200 Medical/Surgical Nursing C <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS20300 OR NURS20400	NURS30300 Community Health Nursing <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS10300 NURS20300 OR NURS20400	NURS31900 Health Care of the Aging Adult <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS20300 OR NURS20400	NURS30500 Clinical Practice V <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS20300 or NURS20400 <i>Corequisites:</i> NURS30200 NURS31900
	Level 6	NURS30700 High Dependency Nursing <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS20400 OR NURS30500	NURS30800 Clinical Nursing elective <i>Prerequisites:</i> NURS20400 OR NURS30500	CSTD30400 Ethics and Professional Accountability <i>Prerequisite:</i> NURS10200	NURS30600 Clinical Practice VI <i>Prerequisite:</i> NURS30500 <i>Corequisite:</i> NURS30700

Semester organisation

The semesters are organised so that

- Semester 1 matches with the Lake Macquarie 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 specific days 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 unit each semester. The content of this clinical unit is related to the areas being studied in the concurrent theoretical units. 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, 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. Because of the variety of settings there is 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 units 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 units. 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 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.