Intensive Care Nursing

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN NURSING
COURSE CODE: 1GD010
1 year full-time; 2 years part time
Mixed mode (external with intensives in some units)
Fees: Commonwealth Grant Supported
Admission is processed by SATAC GradStart www.satac.edu.au

ABOUT THE STREAM
The Intensive Care Nursing (ICU) stream within the Graduate Diploma in Nursing provides graduates with comprehensive specialist nursing knowledge to better meet the needs of patients that have life threatening or potentially life threatening conditions. Critical care nurses working in the ICU usually care for one patient and their family. Graduates will be well prepared to move on to further study and into research.

Some units in this stream are offered through cross-institutional enrolment with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) (see unit descriptions over).

COURSE OUTLINE
The course focuses on cultural awareness in the health practice context, and builds on existing knowledge and understanding of nursing practice, assessment and evidence-based practice. In the increasingly complex and challenging world of health practice, this course provides the opportunity for professionals to extend clinical development and intellectual engagement, and build capacity in critical analysis and reflection, in nursing practice and education.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must have current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to practise as a Registered Nurse and be employed in an Intensive Care Unit at a minimum of 0.63FTE. Students not in the NT employed model are required to arrange their own clinical practice in consultation with the course coordinator.
## UNIT OUTLINES

### INFORMING PRACTICE WITH EVIDENCE (HEA402)
Contemporary professionals work in environments requiring practice grounded in quality evidence. This unit focuses on developing skills and knowledge to reflect on critically and integrate evidence into practice. You will explore types of evidence, evaluate the standard of evidence and demonstrate its application to inform professional interventions, treatments, and decision-making processes. You will review research literature, professional guidelines and standards and critique how this information applies to your own practice.

### CULTURE IN PRACTICE (HEA401)
This unit assists you to increase your awareness of, and ability to critique, the construct of culture within yourself, your profession and the communities in which you work. You will be encouraged to explore your own culturally embedded values, beliefs, and practices. You will be expected to develop an understanding of how culture impacts the way we work and how we can work more appropriately and effectively across cultures.

### ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT (NSN701) (QUT)
This unit develops an advanced understanding of health assessment in nursing practice. This will be achieved by exploring the theoretical, conceptual and practical knowledge required to effectively assess the individual, family and their environment to provide nursing care within the context of specialist practice.

### PHARMACOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (SNP402)
This unit assists you to acquire a more thorough understanding of the fundamental scientific principles of pharmacology that underpin a wide range of disease states and to apply pharmacological knowledge in your own specialty area of practice. You will review basic principles of pharmacology and pharmacotherapy to increase your understanding of the effects of drugs on human physiological and pathophysiological processes. This knowledge will be applied to drugs currently being used for the treatment of clinical illness to deepen your understanding of the processes involved with a specific focus on your client population.

### KEY ISSUES IN EMERGENCY AND INTENSIVE CARE NURSING (NSN721) (QUT)
Health service delivery is undergoing rapid change, and the nature and scope of nursing practice reflects this. Registered Nurses working in Intensive Care and Emergency settings require the ability to care for patients who are increasingly critically ill in an environment that evidences increasingly complex technology. As such, Registered Nurses require knowledge and skills that enable them to understand a client’s health needs, determine appropriate interventions, predict and manage complications, and develop specific plans of care for critically ill individuals and their families that are appropriate to their unique needs and personal context.

### PRINCIPLES OF INTENSIVE CARE NURSING (NSN722) (QUT)
Registered Nurses working in Intensive Care require the ability to care for patients who are increasingly critically ill in an environment that evidences increasingly complex technology. Nurses working in this field require an advanced level of knowledge of evidence-based principles and practices appropriate to prevent and manage these health problems, as well as skills in implementing and evaluating intervention strategies, in the context of a multidisciplinary team.

### SPECIALISATION IN CRITICAL CARE NURSING (NSN723) (QUT)
Critical care environments provide care for individuals with a diverse range of health problems. This unit will provide the opportunity for you to further develop and consolidate prior learning in a critical care clinical setting of your choice. You will expand on your theoretical, professional and practical knowledge to assess patients, plan and implement nursing care in a particular critical care environment.

### ELECTIVE
A 10 credit point unit from level 400-500 offered by the University. You are encouraged to select electives that will enhance your practice, for example research or public health. Some short courses offered by external providers e.g. National Critical Care Trauma Research Centre (NCCTRC) may be incorporated into an elective in negotiation with your course coordinator.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
For further information about the course contact the School of Health Academic Liaison Unit  
T. 08 8946 7357  
E. alu@cdu.edu.au  

For enrolment procedures, closing dates and other administrative issues please contact Student Services and ask for a member of the Higher Education Enrolment Team  
T. 1800 061 963  
E. enrolmenthelp@cdu.edu.au  
W. www.cdu.edu.au