

Charles Darwin University

College of Nursing and Midwifery

SimBlock Information Document



February 2022, version 1

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1 Welcome

Welcome to the College of Nursing and Midwifery at Charles Darwin University. Within the Bachelor of Nursing, the Bachelor of Midwifery and Master of Nursing Pre-Registration degree you will undertake Simulation Blocks. Simulation Blocks will be referred to in this document as SB's.

Each degree has compulsory four-day or five-day SBs for each year-level. These are associated with specific units in your course. SB's are compulsory for students to attend. Each SB also contributes to unit assessment and is a hurdle assessment in each unit. The College placement team and your unit coordinators will provide you with information about allocation to SBs and how you can best prepare. Student's that fail to engage with SB will not be able to meet the unit requirements and will be awarded a Fail (F) grade. During these SB's essential knowledge is applied in simulated practice in a laboratory setting in preparation for the Professional Experience Placement (PEP) which follows. SBs occur on an annual basis and sometimes each semester.

Whilst at times challenging, SBs are often a rewarding and memorable part of the undergraduate experience. It is during this time that you can contextualise your knowledge and skills in a simulated practice setting.

By taking time to read and understand this document, we hope that you will be able to engage fully in your SB's and maximise your learning opportunities. We wish you a rewarding and positive experience.



2 Important Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Details
PEP Academic Lead - Nursing	Jessica Morrissey	Phone: 08 8946 6832 jessica.morrissey@cdu.edu.au
PEP Academic Lead – Midwifery	Claire Davison	Phone: 0403 968 409 claire.davison@cdu.edu.au
PEP team – Manager	Bradley Herbert	Phone: 02 8047 4147 nurplac@cdu.edu.au
Sim Block Allocation - PEP team	Mel Price	Phone: 08 8946 6896 nurplac@cdu.edu.au
Preclinical Enquiry		preclinical@cdu.edu.au
Student Admin Enquiry		conmstudentadmin@cdu.edu.au

2.1 Nursing unit contacts

Unit	Contact Details
NUR125	Nur125unitcoord@cdu.edu.au
NUR130	Nur130@cdu.edu.au
NUR244	Nur244unitcoord@cdu.edu.au
NUR255	Nur255@cdu.edu.au
NUR343	Nur343unitcoord@cdu.edu.au
NUR366	Nur366@cdu.edu.au
NUR530	Nur530@cdu.edu.au
NUR539	Nur539@cdu.edu.au
NUR542	Nur542@cdu.edu.au

2.2 Midwifery unit contacts

Unit	Contact Details
MID101	Mid101lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID102	Mid102lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID202	Mid202lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID204	Mid204lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID301	Mid301lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID303	Mid303lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID306	Mid306lecturer@cdu.edu.au
MID307	Mid307lecturer@cdu.edu.au

3 The Professional Experience Placement (PEP) Office

The PEP team is responsible for all administrative aspects of arranging SB's. They will communicate with you when it is time to express your preference for SB attendance and communicate with you around any changes / alterations needed. There is information located in the Nursing and Midwifery Central Learnline site that also explains and shows how SB allocation is undertaken by both students and the College. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with these resources. It is a student's responsibility to ensure that they have nominated for a SB and monitored their student emails, where correspondence is sent.

4 Pre-SimBlock Compliance

SBs are simulated experiences of the real-world clinical settings. Therefore, there is an associated health and safety risk to you, your peers and the college staff that must be considered. The College & our educational partners mandate certain requirements are met to protect all students attending the SB.

4.1 COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for SB

To navigate the **COVID-19 pandemic** and ensure we provide a safe environment for all we are aligning our practice and capacity with Federal, Territory and State Government Requirements. This means that there are density limits that impact capacity and there are also health directives such as mask mandates and vaccination status for COVID-19 that must

be met. As these alter and change you will be communicated with by the College through your student email.

All students attending SimBlock must have a minimum of two (2) COVID-19 vaccinations or one (1) Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

If you are not appropriately vaccinated, you will not be able to attend and therefore will not meet the hurdle requirement of your unit and will be awarded a Fail (F) grade.

4.2 Student Allocation

Students will be communicated with, using their student email, by the PEP team for nominations for SBs. These occur prior to the semester. If you have a late enrolment to a unit with a SB, it is your responsibility to contact the PEP team and your unit coordinator, via the details above to discuss your nomination / allocation to SB.

Nominations to SB are where students express a preference for one (1) SB. It is important to note that students may not be allocated to their preferred SB due to capacity and availability.

Currently we offer SB in the following locations:

- Nursing
 - Darwin
 - Alice Springs
 - Sydney
 - Brisbane (external partner provider)
 - Melbourne (external partner provider)
 - Perth (external partner provider)
- Midwifery
 - Darwin
 - Alice Springs
 - Sydney

Students that fail to nominate to SB by the end of week 2 of the enrolled semester will be allocated by the PEP team to the next available space, with a minimum of four (4) week's notice. It is expected that students will attend their SimBlock that is allocated.

5 Simulation Blocks



Simulation blocks (SBs) are an in-person, on-campus, intensive program that provides you with an opportunity to apply knowledge from your theory units in simulated practice and develop discipline specific skills. There is at least one SB for each year-level of your course and sometimes they occur each semester. Successful completion of SB is a pre-requisite (mandatory) for attending Professional Experience Placement (PEP), sometimes referred to as clinical placement, in the same year level. The hurdle requirement of SB means if you do not attend SB, you will be unable to meet the hurdle requirements of the unit and unable to pass.

The SB is a great opportunity for students to meet each other, form friendships and study groups. It is also an opportunity to meet some of your lecturers. Good preparation is essential. Being away from home and absence from employment requires some forward planning. Remember, you will also need to manage the requirements of your other units while attending SB. It is therefore a good idea to be aware of assessment due dates for all units.

Students will be expected to attend the full four / five days of SB, be on time, wear the correct clinical uniform (refer to Student Uniform policy in the Nursing and Midwifery Central within Learnline) and be compliant with pre-clinical requirements. Please consider the daily start and end times when arranging travel and accommodation. Contact your Unit Coordinator if you have questions.



The College of Nursing and Midwifery student uniform is as follows:



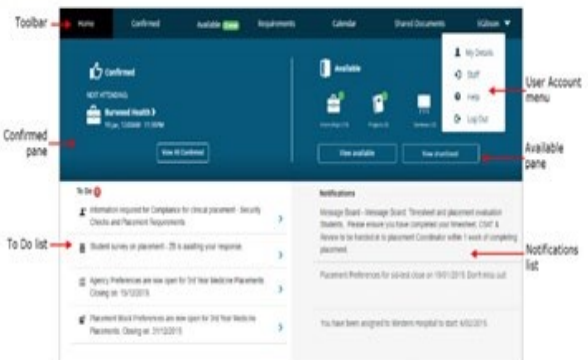

- Navy or black 'dress' trousers or knee length shorts/culottes/skirt;
- CDU student polo shirt;
- Current student ID card in a holder with clip, should be visible to staff and patients/maternity client;
- Fully "closed in/hard covered" shoes in black or navy with sturdy strong soles;
- Shoes are to be clean and if required, polished.
- Sandshoes /runners / sneakers and shoes with soft coverings and ballet style are unacceptable;
- At least two pairs of 'dress' trousers/skirt/shorts and two polo shirts are required to permit laundering between shifts. Denim trousers/low cut/shorts/skirts are not acceptable. Shirts must be adequate length, no midriff or underwear showing.
- Garments are to be ironed or free of creases/wrinkles, and neat and tidy;
- Hair is to be worn off the collar, face and neck and appropriately contained/secured. If hair is long there is a risk of infection to clients and students or trauma if clients grab the student's hair;
- Facial hair must be neatly trimmed or be clean shaven;
- Fingernails are to be short with no sharp edges. Long nails are a potential risk to patients/maternity client skin integrity and an infection control risk.
- Nail polish and artificial nails are not to be worn;

- No jewellery, apart from a plain, non-engraved wedding ring and stud or sleeper earrings are to be worn. Engraved rings and jewellery containing stones are a potential risk to patient/maternity client skin integrity and contribute to the transmission of infection.
- Wrist watches must not be worn when undertaking clinical care or aseptic procedures as they are an infection control risk and a potential risk to patient/maternity client skin integrity;
- Students must have a watch with a second hand which can be worn away from the wrist, such as a fob watch;
- Religious headwear, where worn, should complement uniform colour and all infection control requirements of the CPP;

The College has clinical laboratories at campuses in Darwin, Sydney & Alice Springs, as well as; external laboratories in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth (for nursing only). You are responsible for all travel and accommodation arrangements and costs.

Allocation to a SB will be managed through the placement management system, 'InPlace'.

5.1 InPlace Home Page View:

<p>User Account Menu</p> <p>From here you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • click My Details to open the My Details page and review your personal details and all required compliance documentation for your placements. See About My Details. • click Help to open the InPlace online help • click Log Out to log out of InPlace 	<p>Confirmed Pane</p> <p>Shows your next upcoming placement</p> <p>To Do list</p> <p>Displays your list of tasks that you need to acknowledge, review, or action. Clicking on a task will take you to the relevant page.</p> <p>Notifications</p> <p>A list of notifications that you need to read, but don't need to action.</p> <p>View Available – This feature is not yet available.</p>	<p>Have a question?</p> <p>Contact your College to get help for troubleshooting or to manage your placement.</p> 	<p>InPlace Quick Reference Guide</p> <p>For Students</p> 
<p>Home page</p> <p>Your Home page is the first page you see when you log in. It gives you quick access to all your placement details, tasks and notifications.</p> 			<p>Toolbar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home - Brings you back to the Home Page • Confirmed - displays your confirmed placements. Students can access further placement details from this menu such as their schedule and directions • Available - this feature is currently not in use at CDU • Requirements - displays the requirements of a student's placement. This includes the type of experience and the duration • Calendar - gives you a calendar view of your placements • Shared Documents - displays documents and forms that students must download and read • Username - access your details, and upload your Pre-Placement Clearances  <p>CDU Portal - The portal is a convenient single point of access for InPlace and many applications available to students at CDU</p>

You will be advised via email and through College Central Learnline announcements, when you can provisionally allocate yourself in the 'InPlace' system to a SB.

The final allocations will be managed by the College Placement Team who will take all variables & priorities into account when finalising the schedule. Every effort is made to meet your preferred time and location, however, due to demand the College reserves the right to vary requests.

The SB is a pre-requisite to PEP. This means that a minimum standard of attendance, professional behaviour, application of knowledge and skill is required. Your lecturers in the SB will provide feedback to you if additional support needs are identified. Where gaps are identified a Learning Agreement may be negotiated with you for preparation for your PEP (see your Learnline Unit for more information on your assessments).

Opportunities for additional laboratory practice

Where you or your supervisor identify gaps in skills it may be possible to book additional practice sessions. These can be scheduled outside the clinical teaching block programme times. A booking is essential so that laboratory space can be made available, and supervision is arranged. Discuss your needs with your Unit Coordinator.

6 Health & Safety Requirements for Clinical Laboratories



Clinical laboratories have mandatory health and safety requirements. The uniform dress standard and behaviour for the clinical laboratories is the same as for attending clinical placement. The uniform requirements are available from the Clinical Placements page on College Central in Learnline.

COVID-19: students are required to have a minimum of two (2) COVID-19 vaccinations (or 1 Johnson & Johnson vaccine) to attend the SB. In addition, students are expected to adhere to all other COVID-19 health directives. Students should not attend SB if they are unwell or have any COVID-19 symptoms.

You will not be permitted entry to the laboratory space if you are non-compliant with health and safety requirements. Failure to adhere to health and safety requirements may result in students being unsuccessful in their SB and being awarded a F grade.



7 Lateness, Illness or other reasons for absence from SB

Just as you would notify your employer or your PEP provider / venue, we expect that you will attend your SB on time and prepared. We make operational decisions based upon your attendance.

Illness, such as the “flu” or flu/COVID-19 like symptoms, is ordinarily problematic and students should not attend the SB with these symptoms. Until you are medically cleared you must not put your peers and the College at risk

If you are uncertain about what to do, contact your medical practitioner or the unit coordinator prior to attending.

If you are unable to attend SB due to illness or other reason, you must:

- Contact the Placement Office and your Unit Coordinator as soon as possible, ideally early in the morning between 8:30 – 9am;
- Obtain a Medical Certificate if unwell or complete a Statutory Declaration to account for missed hours. A copy must be provided to the Placement Office and the Unit Coordinator.

The Placement Office and / or the unit coordinator will liaise with you to discuss options for makeup / reallocation.

8 Severe Weather Conditions

The personal safety of students is our primary consideration in the event of a cyclone or other severe weather event. Closure of schools and other related factors may prevent attendance. Students in other than Darwin locations should continue their SB as required and contact staff at the Alice Springs or Sydney campuses until the Casuarina campus reopens.

If suspension of SB occurs due to weather events, the Placement Office will prioritise the arrangement of “make up” SB to minimise any inconvenience to students.

9 Attendance while on SB

Students are expected to attend SB and complete the full week. Attendance at SB and completion of the set hours is a hurdle assessment. Failure to meet this may result in a Fail (F) grade being awarded.

10 Possible Challenges while on placement

Various challenges can arise for students during your degree and learning. Generally, problems can be resolved informally in a discussion between you and your lecturer. In the event issues cannot be resolved at this level students should liaise with their discipline PEP Academic Leader and their Course Coordinator / Course Academic Lead to discuss the issues and find a solution.

11 Unsatisfactory Progress while on SB

During SB you will be provided feedback. It is important to remember that feedback is intended to promote your learning and performance. Students that are not performing on SB and unable to demonstrate the required level of skill will be supported by the SB lecturer. In collaboration with the Unit Coordinator a plan maybe developed to support you meet the required standard.

Students demonstrating unprofessional behaviour and behaviour that is against the [CDU Student Code of Conduct](#) will be removed from SB. Students that are removed for unprofessional behaviour will be unable to meet he hurdle requirement of the unit and need to re-enrol when the unit is next offered.

11.1 Social Media

Students are not permitted to take photos of other students due to privacy. Students must refrain from taking any photos in the SB or posing with the mannequins / task trainers. The SB is a simulated professional environment, and it is expected that students will conduct themselves as they do on Professional Experience Placement (PEP). Any images taken in SB and posted to social media will be managed as per the [CDU Student Code of Conduct](#).

12 Accident or Injury while in the SB

Students must comply with university accident and injury reporting guidelines in addition to the procedures of the health facility. If injured, you must immediately notify your lecturer and all required documentation completed.