Frequently Asked Questions

Nursing Simulation Blocks
WHAT IS A SIMULATION BLOCK?

A Simulation Block is a compulsory one week study block where students learn and practice their clinical skills in a simulated environment prior to clinical placement. These blocks are held in Darwin, Alice Springs or other advertised locations.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SIMULATION BLOCK AND A PLACEMENT?

A simulation block is a simulated environment in an educational institution prior to placement; the placement takes place in a real environment such as a hospital, community centre or aged care facility.

HOW DO I NOMINATE FOR A SIMULATION BLOCK?


WHEN I AM ASSIGNED TO A SIMULATION BLOCK DOES THIS MEAN I AM ENROLLED INTO THE UNIT?

No. Students are responsible for enrolling themselves in the associated placement unit. Students need to enroll once they have successfully completed any pre-requisite units and been confirmed in to a simulation block.

WHY CAN'T I ENROL IN THE UNIT? I GET A 'BREACH' ERROR.

Students cannot enroll in to a placement unit until they have met all requirements and have been assigned to a simulation block. Students having problems enrolling should check the following:

Have I successfully completed the pre-requisite units and can I see the pass grades on my student info?

Have I nominated for the placement unit?

Have I submitted all of my pre-clinical documents?

Have I been confirmed to a simulation block?

Please note that students will receive an email advising they have nominated and another 3-4 weeks later to confirm them to a simulation block. This later email is the confirmation of a simulation block and the one that will allow a student to proceed to enrollment.

If the student has answered ‘yes’ to all of the above questions but still cannot enroll, please email nurplaccoord@cdu.edu.au including name, student number, unit code and attention this to the Placement Team Leader.

WHEN I NOMINATE MY SIMULATION BLOCK PREFERENCES WHEN WILL I KNOW WHAT SIMULATION BLOCK I HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO?

Approximately 3-4 weeks after online nominations close, a simulation block confirmation email will be sent to their student email account.

CAN I STILL ATTEND MY SIMULATION BLOCK IF I DO NOT PASS THE PRE-REQUISITE UNITS?

No. In order to attend a simulation block, the student must be enrolled in the associated placement unit. In order to be enrolled in this placement unit, the student must have successfully completed all prerequisite units.

CAN I DO A PLACEMENT BEFORE MY SIMULATION BLOCK?

No. Students must successfully complete the simulation block (and provide all pre-clinical documents) before they can attend the associated placement.

CAN I REQUEST A PREFERRED SIMULATION BLOCK?

Students must complete the online nomination process and enter the request there. Email and phone nominations will not be accepted. CDU reserves the right to allocate students to simulation blocks other than the student’s preferred simulation block.

I CAN’T ATTEND THE CTB I HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO, HOW DO I REQUEST ANOTHER CTB?

Contact the Placement Office at nurplaccoord@cdu.edu.au as soon as possible, via email and attention this to the Placement Team Leader. Students must provide an extenuating circumstance for their request. There is no guarantee that students will be allocated to a preferred simulation block.

IS THERE A WAITING LIST FOR SIMULATION BLOCKS?

Students can put their names on to a wait list for simulation blocks via the nomination process. The drop down menu should show wait lists for each venue, not for specific dates. The date range given is the entire semester as the wait list is for a location and not a date. Email or phone requests for wait lists will not be accepted. There is no guarantee that students will be allocated to a preferred simulation block.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO NOMINATION FOR CTBS AND PLACEMENTS?

There are deadlines for each round of nominations, this will change every year.

For more information please visit cdu.edu.au/health/undergraduate-nursing
I HAVE TO GO TO ALICE SPRINGS/DARWIN FOR MY CTB, IS ACCOMMODATION SUPPLIED? WHERE CAN I STAY? IS IT FAR FROM THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS?

Travel and accommodation arrangements associated with simulation blocks are solely the responsibility of the student. On campus accommodation may be available at Darwin and Alice Springs.

Please see details at cdu.edu.au/nfih/ or cdu.edu.au/campuses-centres/alice-springs-campus/accommodation

WHERE DO I GET A STUDENT SHIRT AND STUDENT ID FROM?

Student shirts can be purchased online through the CDU Bookshop. Student IDs can be obtained from Student Central. The website links can be found on our website.

CAN I ARRIVE LATE/LEAVE EARLY FOR MY SIMULATION BLOCK SO I CAN CATCH A MORE SUITABLE FLIGHT THERE/HOME?

No. 100% attendance is required at simulation blocks in order to successfully complete the simulation block.

CAN I DO TWO SIMULATION BLOCKS IN ONE SEMESTER SO I CAN FINISH MY STUDIES EARLIER?

No. Students are required to follow a recommended study plan and complete all pre-requisite units prior to enrolling in to the placement units. Recommended study plans are available at cdu.edu.au/health/undergraduate-nursing

I AM AN ENROLLED NURSE AND STARTED STUDIES AS A SECOND YEAR STUDENT. WHY DO I HAVE TO ATTEND NUR244 SIMULATION BLOCK?

Students who enter the Bachelor of Nursing program as Enrolled Nurses are granted credit for the first year clinical placement unit, however at CDU, NUR244 simulation block and placement are vital for all students to complete to ensure clinical hour requirements of the degree are met (to meet AHPRA requirements), ensure students are competent with best and evidence based practice at the second year scope of practice level, assess students professionalism and competency in their clinical practice in order to proceed to third year clinical units.

AS 3RD YEAR HAS FOUR PLACEMENTS DO I NEED TO ATTEND A SIMULATION BLOCK BEFORE EACH?

Once students have successfully completed the NUR343 simulation block, they are eligible to do their NUR343, NUR344 and NUR346 placement units, subject to provision of all pre-clinical requirements. Students also need to follow the recommended study plan and enroll in NUR343, NUR344 and NUR346 accordingly.

CAN I ATTEND A SIMULATION BLOCK IF I AM NOT ENROLLED IN THE UNIT?

No. Students who are not enrolled will not be permitted to attend a Simulation Block. Students are responsible for enrolling themselves in the appropriate placement unit by the deadline date. The enrolment process is separate to the nomination process.

IF I DON’T PASS THE SIMULATION BLOCK, AM I STILL ABLE TO ATTEND MY PLACEMENT?

No. Students must successfully complete the simulation block in order to attend placement.

I AM REPEATING A PLACEMENT UNIT; DO I HAVE TO REDO THE SIMULATION BLOCK?

Yes. If a student fails a unit and then re-enrolls in that unit they must redo all components of that unit (including the simulation block).

WHAT DO I BRING WITH ME TO SIMULATION BLOCK?

- Prescribed text books relevant to the Unit
- Uniform and ID
- Fob watch
- Covered in shoes as per uniform policy (refer to student handbook)

WHAT STUDY DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE THE SIMULATION BLOCK?

Students need to login to Learnline as soon as they are enrolled to access information about placement unit requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

E. nurplaccoord@cdu.edu.au
W. cdu.edu.au/health/health-placements