

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The *Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* consists of compulsory and elective courses from 10 credit points per course which can be undertaken over 4 trimesters part time study. To meet the requirements of attainment for the Graduate Certificate, students must successfully complete 4 courses equalling 40 credit points. *This program also offers the opportunity to complete courses individually without being required to complete the courses required for the Graduate Certificate. A certificate of attendance for each course completed will be granted in these circumstances.*

Program Duration

Enrolment is available on a part-time on-line basis. The Nursing Research & Practice Development Unit runs courses for the Graduate Certificate on a trimester system, ie. Three terms per year. Students may commence studies in January, May or September.

Award Classification

Masters of Nursing in Mental Health Nursing

Early exit: Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing

Level

600 level

Credit Points

Early exit with Graduate Certificate in Mental Health: 40 credit points

Enrolment

Applicants considered for enrolment will be List A registered nurses who hold a current authority to practice.

Students must have an email address and access to the internet in order to undertake this program online through Blackboard.

Credit and credit transfer

Those who successfully complete the *Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* will receive 40 credit points. These credit points may receive credit standing with the post graduate nursing courses offered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Newcastle.

Consideration may be given for credit towards the *Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* to those who have successfully completed units of study (relevant to mental health nursing) at a recognized tertiary institution, college or health care setting and at the same level.

COST

Please refer to the enrolment form for the cost of this program.

Ask about the availability of scholarships for enrolment.

All courses are subject to availability.

Further Information

Prospective students who are interested in undertaking the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing can enrol into the *Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Advanced Practice)*, through the University of Newcastle.

To receive an *Admission Package* email

Nursing-postgrad@newcastle.edu.au

or phone 4921 7198 or 4921 6523.

Further information is available at the following website:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/courseinfo/postgrad/index.html>

In distance mode online through the
University of Newcastle



The UNIVERSITY
of NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING of OLDER PEOPLE

Specialty Clinical Nursing Course
Can be undertaken as a
Non-award (stand alone) Course
or

an Elective (NURS6070) in the
Graduate Certificate or
Masters of Nursing –(Mental Health)
or (Older Person Nursing)

Trimester Three
Sept. – Nov. 2006

HUNTER NEW ENGLAND
NSW HEALTH

COURSE OUTLINE

NURS6070

Mental Health Nursing care of older people is this course's focus. It will emphasise the interaction of physical, psychological, cognitive, behavioural and social stressors, resources and strengths as they affect function, health status and quality of life of individuals and their families.

The course will use an incremental model in determining nursing content to encompass knowledge and skills from the disciplines of mental health and aged care nursing, psychiatry, psychology, geriatric medicine and pharmacology.

The course is offered in Trimester Two, commencing 22 May 2006 concluding in late August

INTRODUCTION

Fifteen to twenty percent of older people have significant mental health problems. The psychiatric disorders experienced by the elderly are often overlooked, misdiagnosed or mistreated, leading to high co-morbidity and increasing health care costs, but perhaps most importantly to unnecessary suffering and compromised ability to lead life to the fullest.

This course encompasses knowledge and skills from the disciplines of mental health and aged care nursing, psychiatry, psychology, geriatric medicine and pharmacology. Major diagnostic syndromes, comprehensive assessment, and challenging behaviour are emphasised.

The course is in three modules and is presented on-line using the "BlackBoard" on-line teaching system of the University of Newcastle.

MODULE 1

Introduction to Mental Health Nursing of Older People

- Evolution of old age psychiatry
- Nursing assessment
- Successful ageing
- Psychiatric syndromes

MODULE 2

Challenging Behaviours

- Acute confusion
- Cognitive impairment

MODULE 3

Psychiatric Disorders and Psychopharmacology

- Mood disorders
- Psychotic disorders
- Psychopharmacology

Subject Enquiries:

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ABOUT THE POST GRADUATE PROGRAM

This program has been designed to offer flexible options of clinical practice and academic study at 600 level. As it is currently offered, students may exit with a graduate certificate in mental health nursing if they wish.

Progression

The program is offered on-line in Trimester mode (3 trimesters per year). Nurses may choose to undertake individual courses from the program, each course is either 10 or 20 credit points each.

The principles of adult education, inquiry and learning are fundamental elements of the program design and curriculum content. All courses are designed within a clinical framework for practice.

Program Aim

To broaden the vision of Mental Health Nursing by challenging attitudes, creating change, developing knowledge and improving practice.

Program Objectives

- to foster the personal and professional development of nurses in relation to their learning and practice
- to enhance the registered nurse's knowledge in mental health nursing
- to facilitate critical reflection in practice
- to develop clinical skills with practical application
- to promote a supportive learning environment where attitudes and beliefs can be challenged
- to encourage nurses to be agents of change in contemporary nursing practice