UWS is home to one of Australia’s largest nursing education programs. Our undergraduate courses are designed with the vision of preparing graduates for work in the future and to make a difference in the lives of people, especially those in the Greater Western Sydney region. All courses are underpinned by a primary health care philosophy and supported by a blended learning approach throughout the course. UWS provides quality, evidence-based studies, emphasising a balance of theory and clinical practice in order to prepare you for work in the nursing health care sectors.

UWS is internationally known for producing nursing graduates who enjoy very high employment rates.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has many staff who are recognised as international and national researchers promoting evidence-based practice. This enables the School to provide contemporary education delivered by staff who are at the cutting edge of their specialities. Learning activities are further supported by strong links with the health service sector, particularly in the Greater Western region of Sydney in teaching, clinical education and research.

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<tr>
<th>COURSE NAME</th>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
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<th>DURATION</th>
<th>TOTAL CREDIT POINTS</th>
<th>2014 INDICATIVE TUITION FEES AUDS</th>
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*The B Nursing (Graduate Entry) 4692 requires completion of 170 credit points ie. 1st year 100 credit points; 2nd year 70 credit points. Based on the 2013 rate, annual fees are: 1st year $28,100; 2nd year $19,670 (2nd year fee subject to a variable fee regime).
NURSING AT UWS

BACHELOR OF NURSING

Choose the UWS Nursing degree and you will make a tangible difference to people’s lives. You will also be part of one of the largest nursing education institutions in the Southern Hemisphere. Renowned both locally and internationally for its enthusiastic, committed, competent graduates, effective teaching and research activities, and innovative professional programs, the UWS Nursing program plays a vital role in the Australian health system.

The undergraduate course provides students with practical and theoretical knowledge, as well as the professional experience and research skills necessary for a rewarding nursing career.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION/RECOGNITION

After successfully completing a UWS Nursing degree, you are qualified to apply for registration as a registered nurse with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). Course accreditation can be checked on their website www.anmac.org.au/accreditation-services.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

This program includes work-integrated learning in public and private health settings. You will interact with people of different genders and backgrounds through ‘hands-on’ activities, which may include physical observation and touch. You will also practise these skills in the classroom by working with other students.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- acute care hospitals
- community health
- paediatric health
- mental health care services
- disability services
- rehabilitation services
- aged care services
- operating theatres
- emergency or trauma units
- forensic, drug, alcohol, and occupational health
- palliative care
- oncology
- nursing education
- child and adolescent health

CORE UNITS

YEAR 1

Professional Practice Experience 1

This unit introduces beginning students of nursing to the principles, concepts and skills used to identify, promote, maintain and support health and well-being across the lifespan.

Primary Health Care in Action

This unit introduces nursing and midwifery students to Primary Health Care (PHC) as a social model of health and a World Health Organization (WHO) strategy for achieving just and humane health care. The unit explores the impact and relevance of PHC as a framework for organising an Australian health care system that decreases health inequities and optimises the health of all people. Students will examine the dimensions of PHC that assist in establishing collaborative partnerships in which people are supported to take responsibility for their health, with a specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Bioscience 1

This unit introduces student nurses and midwives to the terminology and major introductory concepts related to normal structure and function of the human body and its relationship to performances of activities of living and healthy lifestyle practices.

Nirav Patel (India)

Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry)
School of Nursing and Midwifery

According to Nirav Patel studying a Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) at UWS will open doors to your future success.

‘Nursing graduates from UWS have high employment ratios and you graduate with real experience. UWS has hi-tech laboratories, friendly and helpful academic staff and from day one you are in engaging classes with practical training exercises,’ says Nirav.

‘One of the really exciting things about studying at UWS is the opportunity to participate in extra curriculum activities. I was honoured to be selected to represent UWS and the School of Nursing and Midwifery in the 2013 Trans-Tasman interdisciplinary health challenge. This was an incredible experience and allowed me to practice my theoretical and technical nursing skills, and to be awarded as National Champions is one of the proudest achievements of my life.’

‘The best part of my campus (Hawkesbury) is all the open space and trees, it’s a great campus to be able to relax and there’s also the odd visit from Australian wildlife!’

Nirav is looking forward to continuing his studies at UWS with an honours degree and pursuing a career in the research discipline.
Professional Communication

This unit develops the written and interpersonal skills of students in preparation for professional practice. Students are introduced to the concepts of language, literacy and learning styles that are required for both academic and professional life. Cultural sensitivity, safety and competence that facilitate appropriate intercultural communication are explored within the context of contemporary healthcare.

Professional Practice Experience 2

This unit focuses on the role and skills of nursing in promoting, maintaining and supporting health across the lifespan. Principles and practices of nursing care will be applied in simulated, service learning and practice environments, particularly in the health priority areas of Injury prevention and control and obesity. Theoretical underpinnings specifically related to this unit are found in Human Relationships and Life Transitions, Bioscience 2 and Approaches to Professional Practice.

Human Relations and Life Transitions

This unit enables students to be aware of the complex nature of human relationships and life transitions and introduces relevant concepts that inform nursing and midwifery practice. The unit explores frameworks that support an understanding of human development, development of a sense of self, predictable and unpredictable transitions across the lifespan and in the context of people realising their health potential.

Bioscience 2

This unit extends knowledge gained in Bioscience 1 and introduces nursing students to concepts associated with alterations in health and wellness as a consequence of life transition. It includes an introduction to pathophysiology, pharmacology, immunology and microbiology. The unit also focuses on the impact of microorganisms on the health of people and the body’s natural defences in dealing with infections and injuries and its significance for nursing.

Approaches to Professional Nursing Practice

This unit explores the nature and professional context of nursing. The roles and functions of the nurse and their relationship to others are considered in terms of expected competence, responsibilities, accountabilities and scope of practice.

YEAR 2

Professional Practice Experience 3

This unit extends on the concepts and skills introduced in Year 1 nursing studies. The unit is theoretically aligned with Health Variation 1 and focuses on the role and skills of the nurse in assessing and caring for people across the lifespan who are experiencing acute but usually resolvable conditions which includes the perioperative experience. The unit integrates the perioperative experience with the National Health Priority areas relating to Arthritis and Musculoskeletal conditions; Cancer Control and Injury Management.

Health in a Culturally Diverse Community

This unit enables nursing and midwifery students to investigate and discuss the concepts of health and illness in the context of culturally diverse communities. The unit promotes the attainment of critical knowledge and core principles necessary for students to become holistic, culturally sensitive and appropriately adaptable when meeting the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and people from other diverse cultural backgrounds. A case study approach provides a framework for students to explore the impact of different attitude and value systems relating to the health of people in Australia.

Health Variations 1

This unit provides the theoretical background knowledge for Professional Practice 3. It introduces the student to the fundamental principles of perioperative nursing care in supporting clients undergoing surgical interventions incorporating the related pathophysiology and pharmacology. In particular, nursing care of surgical interventions relating to the gastrointestinal, reproductive and musculoskeletal systems with a Health Priority Focus relating to Injury Control, Arthritis and Cancer Control will be the focus of case history reviews.

Research Principles for Nursing and Midwifery

This unit introduces nursing and midwifery students to the major paradigms, research principles and concepts that inform critical analysis of literature and the basis of evidence based practice.

Professional Practice Experience 4

Professional Practice Experience 4 focuses on the care of people experiencing an acute exacerbation of a chronic condition. Principles and practices of nursing care will be undertaken in simulated and practice environments, particularly in the National Health Priority areas of cardiovascular disease, asthma, diabetes mellitus, arthritis, and mental health. Theoretical underpinnings specifically related to this unit are found in Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing 1, Health Variations 2, and Health Variations 3.

Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing 1

This unit will introduce students to the care of individuals with mental health and wellbeing problems. The National Mental Health Policy 2008 provides the population framework to focus on a complex range of determinants and consequences of mental health and illness in Australia. The principles of recovery and the professional use of self in everyday collaborative practice will be introduced and explored. The focus will be on an introduction to altered mood, perception and thinking and their impact on caring for individuals with depression, anxiety and substance use problems. Students will be caused to extend their knowledge of stress vulnerability, risk management and their impact on promoting mental health and wellbeing across the lifespan.
Health Variations 2
This unit explores the concepts of chronicity, disability, habilitation and rehabilitation in relation to chronic conditions, functional and intellectual disabilities and their implications for nursing practice. National Health Priority Case Studies drawn from across the lifespan will provide a focus for exploring pathophysiology, pharmacological interventions and nursing care related to chronic conditions of the endocrine, neurological and respiratory body systems. In addition, the nursing role in supporting those with physical and intellectual disability will be examined. This unit provides theoretical underpinnings directly related to Professional Practice Experience 4.

Health Variations 3
This unit uses National Health Priority case histories to further develop knowledge of pathophysiology, pharmacology and nursing implications for people across the lifespan who may experience acute exacerbations of chronic conditions. A major focus will be related to the nursing management of chronic conditions involving the cardiovascular and renal systems. Nursing management involving acute exacerbations of chronic conditions affecting the respiratory and musculoskeletal system will also be reviewed. This unit provides theoretical underpinnings for Professional Practice Experience 4.

YEAR 3

Professional Practice Experience 5
This unit extends the concepts and skills previously covered in years one and two. The focus of this unit is to help equip nursing students with the skills required in assessing and caring for people across the lifespan who are experiencing acute life-threatening illness and end-of-life conditions. Through a Primary Health Care approach, the unit will use national health priorities of Cardiovascular Disease, Injury Prevention and Control, Cancer control and Mental Health to exemplify the inter-relationship between acute and chronic conditions and the palliative approach to life threatening illness.

Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing 2
This unit builds on the foundations of mental health and wellbeing established in earlier units. The relationship between stress and vulnerability will be explored within the context of the psychotic disorders schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder. Students will gain an understanding of how the principles of recovery, introduced in an earlier unit, are applied to caring for people with schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder. Altered mood, perception, and thinking will be explored and evidence-based assessment tools and biological and psychosocial interventions introduced for facilitating recovery towards mental health and wellbeing.

Health Variations 4
This unit introduces the theoretical background information required for Professional Practice 5 by providing the related pathophysiology, pharmacology and nursing implications to assist students in caring for people who experience an acute life-threatening and/or traumatic condition that may involve multiple systems failure. National Health Priority case histories used in the unit will focus on cardiovascular disease, injury prevention and control. Consideration will also be made in relation to habilitation and rehabilitation of these people who have experienced acute life-threatening or traumatic complex health issues.

Health Variations 5
This unit develops a student’s knowledge and skills in a palliative approach when caring for individuals and their families who are experiencing Life limiting illness. Case histories featuring a lifespan approach and that address the National Health Priority Areas will be used to illuminate the palliative approach as a model of care. Students will explore the benefits a palliative approach when supporting dying individuals with any life limiting illness. Students will also acquire the capabilities to develop self-care strategies to manage their own grief and loss. This unit provides theoretical underpinning for Professional Practice 5.

Professional Practice Experience 6
This unit provides a unique opportunity to consolidate and extend their skill base in preparation for graduate practice. Additional theoretical underpinnings specifically related to this unit are found in the units: Being a Registered Nurse/Midwife and Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery.

B NURSING (GRADUATE ENTRY)
The Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) course is only offered at the Hawkesbury campus. It is a nursing program designed for applicants who hold a relevant undergraduate award or are an overseas registered nurse. You will be part of one of the largest nursing education institutions in the Southern Hemisphere. Renowned both locally and internationally for its enthusiastic, committed, competent graduates, effective teaching and research activities, and innovative professional programs, the UWS Nursing program plays a vital role in the Australian health system. The numerous career opportunities that exist in Australia and overseas are key factors attracting women and men to the nursing profession.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must have successfully completed an (AEI-NOOSR equivalent) undergraduate degree in biological sciences OR arts/behavioural science OR 3 year post-secondary qualification as a registered nurse (completed within the last 10 years).
Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery

The unit explores fundamental concepts and issues related to leadership in nursing and midwifery. The unit focuses on exploration of contemporary, emerging and innovative approaches to leadership that may contribute to nursing and midwifery standards, person-centred practice, evidence-based leadership, critical reflection and critical thinking in dynamic healthcare contexts.

See Bachelor of Nursing for other course descriptions.

UNITS OF STUDY

Foundations for Nursing Practice, Professional Practice Experience 3, Health in a Culturally Diverse Community, Health Variations 1, Research Principles for Nursing and Midwifery, Professional Practice Experience A, Professional Practice Experience 4, Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing 1, Health Variations 2 and 3, Professional Practice Experience 5, Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing 2, Health Variations 4 and 5, Professional Practice Experience 6, Being a Professional Nurse or Midwife, Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery.

Being a Professional Nurse or Midwife

This unit explores the process of transition from student to professional practitioner. Students will gain an understanding of the congruence between the principles of Primary Health Care and professional regulatory frameworks. The role of the graduate nurse or midwife will be comprehensively explored through a detailed examination of the frameworks governing practice and professional conduct. This unit will build capacity in students to meet their professional responsibilities as practitioners in nursing or midwifery. Students will also have the opportunity to discuss career planning and ongoing professional development.

Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery

The unit explores fundamental concepts and issues related to leadership in nursing and midwifery. The unit focuses on exploration of contemporary, emerging and innovative approaches to leadership that may contribute to nursing and midwifery standards, person-centred practice, evidence-based leadership, critical reflection and critical thinking in dynamic healthcare contexts.

See Bachelor of Nursing for other course descriptions.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The focus of the course is on inquiry-based learning, critical thinking and reflective practice in relation to the theory and practice of nursing in health and health breakdown across the lifespan. You will have the opportunity to apply your nursing knowledge and skills in campus-based simulated clinical practice settings, as well as clinical placements in a variety of health care settings. You will interact with people of different genders and backgrounds through ‘hands-on’ activities, which may include physical observation and touch.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION/RECOGNITION

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)

CAREER OPTIONS INCLUDE

Registered Nurse.

MASTER OF NURSING (CLINICAL LEADERSHIP)

This course provides opportunities for clinical nursing and midwifery leaders (expert clinicians, nursing and midwifery managers and leaders at all levels of health care) to enable them to implement change while maintaining nursing excellence within the clinical practice environment.

The Master of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) is also preparation for doctoral studies, and candidates who successfully complete the program may be eligible to apply for the doctoral program at UWS.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Registered Nurse or Midwife (currently registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency – Nursing and Midwifery), or eligibility for same, or certificate of registration of nursing, within the last five years, in their own country and Bachelor of Nursing or Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) or five years full-time equivalent recent (within the last 10 years) professional work experience in nursing/health care as a Registered nurse.

CAREER OPTIONS INCLUDE

Many students enrol in postgraduate nursing and midwifery studies to enhance professional status and career opportunities in their chosen fields with their current employers or to enhance mobility within their sectors.

CORE UNITS

Leadership in Clinical Practice

We are all confronted with the challenge of leadership, regardless of nursing specialty, role or status. Encompassed within leadership is knowledge of self, relevant theories, skills and political awareness which are developed through higher education. By developing leadership skills and knowledge we can influence better outcomes for our patients/clients and create more positive working environments. In the unit, Leadership in Clinical Practice, nursing leadership arising from expert clinical practice is explored as a general notion rather than as one arising from within any particular clinical specialty. Content includes theories, concepts and styles of leadership, the development of leadership potential, motivation, coaching, and mentorship, concepts of power, authority and empowerment and discussion of contemporary leadership issues. Assignments provide students with the opportunity to apply new knowledge about leadership to their practice, whether they be in management, education or clinical roles.

Policy, Power and Politics in Health Care Provision

This unit enables students to gain an understanding of the political and social constructions that underpin health care services such as social determinants of health. It also provides students with the opportunity to explore and critically analyse issues related to the development, implementation and outcomes of health and aged care policies.
Leadership and the Development of Organisational Capacity

This unit examines the concept, form and structure of health care organisations. Organisational theory is explored and used to analyse a range of structures used in nursing and contemporary health care. Factors which influence organisational design, function and effectiveness are explored and discussed including: organisational behaviour, strategy, culture, power and politics, technology, sustainability and effectiveness. A major focus in the unit is planning for strategic organisational development to meet the challenges of rapid change and the need for performance improvements in patient care delivery. Concepts related to the strategic development of workforce capacity in the health care arena are considered through the application of a range of theories including the learning organisation. Leadership will be examined within the context of the unit with a particular emphasis on change management.

Leadership for Quality and Safety in Health Care

Increasingly clinical leaders, practitioners and health service managers are being held accountable for improving the quality and safety of patient care and for developing a culture of quality improvement within their teams. In this unit students learn about quality, patient safety and governance frameworks and strategies that they can employ within healthcare to improve system performance, patient safety and patient outcomes. The main approaches used to address quality of care and patient safety are examined and their applications critiqued. Students will explore leadership issues for developing systematic, coherent quality improvement frameworks and quality initiatives that can be applied within their own sphere of practice.