DIPLOMA OF NURSING

HLT54121

tafeSA

Government of South Australia

TAFESA.EDU.AU/NURSING

TAFE SA ENROLLED NURSING PROGRAM

INSPIRING NURSES TO PROVIDE SAFE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE.

We believe that nurses are integral to building healthy, resilient communities. We value the role of nurses in the provision of client centered health care.

We value working together with our partners to empower individuals and improve health care outcomes. We recognise the importance of high-quality nursing education which is pivotal to the health and wellbeing of our diverse communities.

WE BELIEVE INSPIRED NURSES:

- are competent professional individuals who practise safe, quality health care,
- maintain professionalism by continuing to build a lifelong learning journey,
- are empathetic, compassionate, honest and reliable,
- are advocates and partner with consumers,
- are critical thinkers who engage in reflection to improve practice.

WE BELIEVE EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES:

- understand their health care rights,
- are well informed, competent decision-makers about their health care needs,
- deserve holistic, compassionate, quality care delivered by professional health care workers,
- have the right to be cared for by nurses who are respectful, knowledgeable and proactive.

WE BELIEVE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS:

- have the capacity to transform health care and the individual,
- have the capacity to achieve excellence in delivering safe, reliable and quality health care,
- create dynamic, world class evidence-based outcomes in health care and education.

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OVERVIEW

Enrolled nursing is an exciting and rewarding career that provides many opportunities. Enrolled nurses are employed in a range of areas such as hospitals, community health services, residential care, private homes (home care), medical practices, pathology services and schools.

The Diploma of Nursing (HLT54121) prepares you for the role of an Enrolled Nurse working under the supervision of a Registered Nurse. The qualification covers the application of skills and knowledge required to provide nursing care for people across the health sector.

The course focuses on developing caring, reflective practitioners who can integrate theory into practice, problem solve and work in a collaborative team environment. In addition to gaining knowledge in areas such as clinical assessment, acute and chronic health disorders, wound and medication management, you will have the opportunity to develop and practice skills in our clinical skills laboratories and will undertake a minimum of 400 hours of clinical placement in a range of work environments (see more in the Clinical Placement section of this document).

The HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing at TAFE SA is accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and listed as an approved program of study with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

On successful completion of this qualification, you will be eligible to apply for general registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) to be able to work as an Enrolled Nurse.

To practice as a nurse in Australia, you must be registered with the NMBA and meet the requirements of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Costs are associated with Registration.

COURSE LENGTH

A full-time student will complete the course within 21 months.

Part-time students will complete the course within 39 months.

There is an expectation that additional study and research will be undertaken in your own time to meet competency requirements.

Course completion times may be extended however, to accommodate clinical placement attendance.

If students are bound to a contract of study (e.g. scholarship, cadetship, contract of training, international student, Centrelink/Abstudy support) they will be required to complete their study within a pre-set timeframe.

COURSE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Semester 1 intake, applicants must be 17 years and 6 months or older by the 1st of August prior to the commencement of semester 1.

Semester 2 intake, applicants must be 17 years and 6 months or older by the 1st of February prior to the commencement of semester 2.

These requirements reflect mandatory clinical placement provider requirements and regulatory prerequisites that must be met before a student can commence clinical training.

To comply with accreditation standards for Enrolled Nursing, all students must satisfy the NMBA's English language skills registration standard, as well as demonstrate adequate abilities in language, literacy, and numeracy. Applicants for the Domestic Diploma of Nursing are required to complete a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) assessment to prove competency in reading, writing, and numeracy.

For international applicants, an academic IELTS result of 7.0 overall is required, with a minimum of 7.0 in listening, reading, and speaking, and at least 6.5 in writing. Additionally, applicants must have successfully completed Year 12 or its overseas equivalent and show evidence of strong numeracy skills.

LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY (LLN)

All candidates are required to undertake a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) assessment. To satisfy the course entry requirements, applicants must reach Exit Level 3 in both Reading and Numeracy, and Exit Level 2 in Writing.

SACE English may be accepted as evidence for the Reading and Writing competencies. If a student's LLN results do not meet the standards, they can apply to complete a Pathways to Nursing Foundation Skills course (subject to campus availability). After finishing this course, students must retake the LLN assessment to fulfill the Course Admission Requirements.

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA'S (NMBA) ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS REGISTRATION STANDARD

You must demonstrate your English language competency in one of the following ways:

1) English is your primary language and:

You have attended and satisfactorily completed at least 6 years of primary and secondary education taught and assessed in English in one of the recognised countries* and at least 2 years of evidence must be between years 7 and 12.

OR

2) You have completed one of the following English language tests:

- IELTS (academic module) with a minimum overall score of 7 AND a minimum score of 7 in each of the 3 components (listening, reading, and speaking) and 6.5 in writing.
- OET with a minimum score in the following 4 components 350 in listening, 360 in reading, and 360 speaking and minimum 350 in writing.
- PTE Academic with a minimum overall score of 63 and minimum score in each of the 4 communication skills: listening 58, reading 59, writing 60 and speaking 76.
- TOEFL iBT with a minimum total score of 91 as well as at least 22 in listening, 22 for reading, 23 for writing and 24 for speaking.

Please note: for results to be accepted, the English language test must have been taken within one year.

WHAT KIND OF EVIDENCE CAN I SUBMIT?

You will be required to complete an Evidence Checklist.

All requirements are explained within the checklist. You will be able to access the checklist as part of the application process; for example, in your SATAC application.

HOW DO I SUBMIT EVIDENCE?

Upon submission of your application, you will receive specific instructions on how to submit your evidence. Please visit the **TAFE SA website for Nursing Entry Requirements.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are core knowledge and skills requirements in this course, including practical skills development and demonstration and Clinical Placement requirements such as Fitness to Practice. You will also be required to meet certain mandatory pre-placement requirements, including evidence of:

- Criminal History Screening and National Police Clearance.
- Immunisation Status.

Detail on course and clinical placement requirements are provided later in this brochure.

COURSE COST

Current course fees including further information about the Government of South Australia's Subsidised Training initiative are available on the **TAFE SA website.**

ADDITIONAL COSTS

You will be required to purchase at least one TAFE SA Health Student t-shirt (approximately $35) on commencement of the course. (Please note payment is required in full and cannot be added to a VET Student Loan). Additional t-shirts may be purchased if required.

Additional course-related expenses you may need to consider:

- Uniform requirements for clinical placement and on-campus practicals:
  - TAFE SA Health Student t-shirt
  - enclosed, non-slip, waterproof shoes
  - plain navy/dark blue or black full-length pants.
- Textbooks: not compulsory, however may be purchased through a bookshop or online, or borrowed from the learning resource centre. A list of recommended texts is provided at orientation.
- Travel and accommodation expenses associated with attending campus or placement.

CONTENT/STRUCTURE

The qualification consists of twenty-five (25) units of competency: twenty (20) core units and five (5) elective units. Full details of the units of competency can be found on the **TAFE SA website.**

* Recognised country means one of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda Anguilla, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guernsey, Guyana, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Malta, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland , Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom , United States of America, US Virgin Islands.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

- Access to a computer with an internet connection and data is required to complete all courses no matter what mode.

STUDY MODES

The Diploma of Nursing (HLT54121) at TAFE SA is offered at 9 different campuses across South Australia. Study modes available will differ across the campuses, however all study modes are 'blended' and therefore have a mixture of both on-campus and online learning. Some campuses have more on-campus time scheduled, others will have on-campus attendance primarily for practical learning and clinical skills assessments.

- Online learning is supported using the TAFE SA online learning platform (LEARN), online virtual classroom sessions with your lecturer, and programs such as the 3D interactive NurseSim™. Lecturer support is also provided via email, phone, and online discussion forums.
- There is an expectation that additional study will be undertaken in your own time to meet course requirements; for example:
  - research, self-directed and prescribed learning, and completion of theory-based assessments.

FULL-TIME ON-CAMPUS

- This study mode allows you to learn primarily in a classroom environment with the addition of online learning and assessment.
- Students attend classes at set times, at the campus where they are enrolled.
- On-campus sessions are scheduled across Monday – Friday approximately 20 hours per week.
- Session times are generally 9.00am – 4.00pm. Some additional sessions may occur outside of these hours; for example: tutorials, skills development, assessment, online virtual classroom sessions and information sessions.
- Locations that offer this study mode are TAFE SA Adelaide City and Gilles Plains Campuses.

PART-TIME BLENDED (EVENING)

- Learn in a mixture of classroom and online environments. This mode enables you to study the majority of the theory components of the course at home, in your own time (self-directed) while attending campus primarily for practical learning and clinical skills assessments.
- On-campus learning (attendance) is scheduled for one night a week.
- Session times are generally 5.00pm – 9.00pm.
- Some additional sessions may be scheduled to occur on other evenings of the week, or during the day; for example: tutorials, skills development, assessment, online virtual classroom sessions and information sessions.
- Locations that offer this study mode are: TAFE SA Adelaide City, Gilles Plains and Noarlunga Campuses.

FULL-TIME BLENDED DELIVERY

- This mode enables you to study the majority of the theory components of the course at home, in your own time (self-directed) while attending campus primarily for practical learning and clinical skills assessments.
- Structured learning (on-campus and online) is scheduled:
  - Up to two (2) days per week, with at least one day for on-campus learning at the following locations: Barossa Valley, Mount Barker and Noarlunga Campuses.

  OR

  - As (up to) 5-day workshop blocks scheduled as Practical Learning Blocks (PLBs) to develop and practice your clinical skills, and Clinical Skills Assessments (CSAs) attendance will vary but will be within the week timetabled, with the addition of scheduled online sessions. Offered at Port Pirie, Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier and Whyalla campuses. (see example schedule in table).
- Some additional sessions may occur outside of the scheduled days, or in the evening; for example: tutorials, skills development, assessment, online virtual classroom sessions, and information sessions.

STAGE 1 (SEMESTER)	DURATION
PLB 1.1	5 days
PLB 1.2	5 days
PLB 1.3	5 days
CSA 1.1	5 days
CSA 1.2	5 days
STAGE 2 (SEMESTER)	**DURATION**
PLB 2.1	5 days
PLB 2.2	5 days
PLB 2.3	5 days
CSA 2.1	5 days
CSA 2.2	5 days
STAGE 3 (SEMESTER)	**DURATION**
PLB 3.1	5 days
PLB 3.2	5 days
CSA 3.1	5 days
CSA 3.2	5 days

Please note: Sessions and duration are subject to change.

- Students are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements and meeting all associated costs incurred.

ENROLMENT EVENTS

If your application into the course is successful, you will receive an offer and instructions to book into Enrolment Event. This is your first step to getting started in the course and provides you with information about the course and fees. You will receive a copy of your timetable and learn how to register into the required units of competency.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

RPL may be available where applicants provide sufficient, current, and valid evidence of relevant skills and knowledge. Applications are assessed individually against unit requirements and regulatory obligations.

Please note that due to ANMAC accreditation standards, mandatory clinical placement and professional experience requirements (including minimum placement hours) may still need to be completed. RPL cannot be guaranteed.

CREDIT TRANSFER

Credit transfer for units studied in other qualification areas is available where national codes are the same or formal arrangements exist. Credit transfer discussions take place after you are accepted into the course. Please note there are no fees associated with credit transfer.

MANDATORY REGISTRATION STANDARDS

All students enrolled in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing are required under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010, to be registered as a student with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). The registration process is undertaken by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). TAFE SA completes this registration process for students following enrolment. There is no cost associated with student registration. Further information can be accessed via the **Nursing and Midwifery Board Association website.**

ORIENTATION (COMPULSORY)

All students will be required to attend an orientation. Orientation welcomes new nursing students and provides detailed information about all aspects of the enrolled nursing program and competency requirements. Orientation is held over several days and has both on-campus and online components.

USE OF COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Students are expected to be able to use a computer in the online classroom environment and the internet on a regular and ongoing basis. Research is required to be completed online in addition to accessing other sources of information.

Students will be expected to be able to access their TAFE SA email account for sending and receiving of information and use the online 'myTAFE SA' system for registering in units. Students are encouraged to produce assessment work in an electronic format, so experience in Microsoft Word and other associated programs would be beneficial. This also prepares the student for work within the health/nursing sector which is increasingly using technology at the bedside.

TYPES OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this qualification is competency based. To be deemed competent, a student needs to demonstrate that they have the required skills and knowledge and can apply this to the standard required in the workplace. All aspects of a unit of competency must be met to ensure a student has demonstrated competence to the minimum standard expected.

As you progress through the course, your skills and knowledge will be assessed using a range of methods. This will include theory and practical assessments in both online and on-campus environments. Theory assessments include essays, presentations, case studies, scenarios, multiple-choice and written-answer questions, research and reports. Practical assessments in the clinical skills laboratories, include role-plays, verbal questioning, interviews and work activities. You will also undertake clinical placement where you will further develop and practice your skills and knowledge.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

As part of the Diploma of Nursing you are required to complete vocational placement (clinical placement). All placements are sourced and negotiated by the TAFE SA Placement Unit in collaboration with SA Health and individual health facilities.

There are four (4) clinical placements undertaken over the duration of the course:

- Introduction to Nursing (80hrs).
- Fundamental Nursing Care (120hrs).
- Complex Nursing Care (160hrs).
- Specialty Nursing Care (80hrs).

The NMBA requires students to complete a ***minimum*** of 400 hours of placement.

Placements are undertaken on a full-time basis and follow the shift hours of the nursing industry:

- Day/afternoon/evening and night shifts across all days of the week.
- Potentially weekend work and public holidays.
- Students are required to attend all shifts as rostered by the placement venue.

Placements occur in a range of different settings such as: aged care, primary/community health, correctional services, mental health and acute care. Please note, placements are unpaid. You may be eligible for the Commonwealth Prac payment for support whilst undertaking placements.

Placement may not always be close to your home. Students must be prepared to take placement opportunities that are offered to them, as refusal will result in a delay of course completion. Please note that travel and accommodation arrangements and associated costs incurred are the responsibility of the student, Clinical placement is subject to availability and expected course length may be extended to accommodate this or if additional placement is required to meet all required course outcomes.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Two major placement requirements are criminal history screening and immunisation records. Detailed information about these and other placement requirements will be provided prior to course commencement.

CRIMINAL HISTORY SCREENING/CHECKS

All nursing students are required to have a current criminal history screening/check and a national police clearance before a placement can be allocated.

Screening checks through the Department of Human Services are required.

IMMUNISATION RECORDS

Students must ensure that their immunisation/vaccination history is complete and up to date prior to attending placement. Immunisation records must be available to show the placement venue. Detailed information will be provided at course orientation.

The immunisations that are required include:

- Hepatitis B (3 doses and evidence or seroconversion).
- Covid-19 – Requirement by some Private Residential Aged Care Facilities.
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis-booster required within the past 10 years.
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella.
- Varicella.
- Tuberculosis Screening (online questionnaire).
- Influenza (flu) – required annually.

Please note students are responsible for any costs associated with obtaining a criminal history screening/ national police check and appropriate immunisation records.

TRANSFER WITHIN TAFE SA CAMPUSES

Students are not able to transfer their course offer. Students must commence at the location that has been accepted. There may be options available for students to transfer to another location within TAFE SA once study has commenced. There needs to be a place available at the location of choice and these options would need to be discussed with a TAFE SA Nursing lecturer.

UNIVERSITY AND TAFE SA

Students who complete a HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing are eligible to apply to any university for acceptance into the Bachelor of Nursing which ultimately leads to registration as a Registered Nurse. There is an opportunity to receive credit towards the Bachelor of Nursing for students registered as an Enrolled Nurse with the NMBA. Students will need to look into individual university entrance requirements and credit transfer arrangements to check their eligibility.

DUAL PATHWAYS

TAFE SA offers opportunities to apply for a dual offer course. If given an offer you would be guaranteed a place at a South Australian university upon completion of your TAFE SA qualification.

With a dual offer course, you will receive credit for units already studied, which may reduce the time spent at university and the cost. Another benefit of studying the dual offer course is you are employable as an Enrolled Nurse while studying the bachelor at university.

Dual offer courses enable you to apply for a TAFE SA diploma qualification and a connected university program in one application. Dual offer nursing courses are available at a number of TAFE SA regional and metropolitan locations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

FITNESS TO PRACTISE

If a student has a health impairment, disability, medical condition or mental health issue that may, either in the course of study or clinical placement , place the individual or others at risk of harm, TAFE SA is obligated by law to report this to AHPRA. Any individual or organisation can make a complaint or raise a concern about a registered student with AHPRA if they have a concern about the student's health, conduct or performance.

AHPRA defines a health impairment as a "Physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder (including substance abuse or dependence), that detrimentally affects or is likely to detrimentally affect a registered health practitioner's capacity to safely practice the profession or a student's capacity to undertake clinical training." AHPRA, 2015.

If you have, or may have, any impairment that would, or be likely to, affect your capacity to undertake clinical placement, you will be required to provide evidence from a qualified medical professional that declares you are fit to undertake placement or to outline any restrictions prior to placement being arranged. This also applies to practical components of the course undertaken in the simulated work environment.

The duties of an Enrolled Nurse can be both physically and emotionally challenging. The following information is designed to assist you in making an informed decision about your career choice. It outlines the skills and abilities needed to successfully complete the course.

CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to successfully complete the course requirements for this qualification students will need to develop and competently demonstrate a range of knowledge, understanding and skill. It is critical that you consider these core requirements in making your decision about suitability for this course. Core Course requirements include:

VISUAL ABILITY:

- Adequate visual ability is required to provide safe and effective nursing care (e.g. observation, examination and assessment of clients; observing and detecting changes in skin and wounds; reading and interpreting hand-written and computer documentation and charts, small print measurements along a syringe, medication container labels, expiry dates, test results, information on monitors and equipment).

COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Verbal and Non verbal skills to communicate audibly and effectively in English with a range of people (e.g. clients, families, colleagues and other health professionals), contribute and work with other people as a member of a team; speak clearly and audibly (e.g. providing information or instructions to clients, reporting to colleagues and other health professionals).

PHYSICAL ABILITY:

- Sufficient auditory ability (hearing) to hear and differentiate sounds and detect calls for help or the activation of a call bell for assistance.
- Physical capability to cope with the demands of shift work (e.g. early, late and night shifts over a seven (7) day roster).
- Ability to deal with bodily fluids (e.g. vomit, blood, urine and faeces).
- Ability to deal with the physical and mobility demands of undertaking manual tasks on a consistent basis (e.g. standing, lifting, bending, squatting, kneeling, repetitive movements, moving both equipment and people).
- Sufficient manual dexterity and fine motor skills to grasp, push, press, turn, squeeze and manipulate objects to perform tasks (e.g. pump up a blood pressure cuff, administering an injection, applying bandages). Use computers and related information technology including basic computing, word processing skills, data access using the internet.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

- Ability to read, write and understand information and documents (e.g. reports, charts, and clinical documentation, workplace instructions, policies and procedures).
- Competent and accurate numeracy skills to perform fundamental mathematical functions without the use of a calculator (e.g. for measuring medications, medication calculations), using the 24-hour clock, completing a fluid balance chart.
- Maths required for medication calculations includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, percentages, the metric system, metric conversion, and ratios.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Willingness to demonstrate a commitment to providing inclusive care and respect for all including people of all genders, cultural and religious backgrounds, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people with disabilities.

LANGUAGE, LITERACY & NUMERACY

The Language, Literacy & Numeracy requirements are core skills for all job roles at all levels. The Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) indicates that the five core skill areas are reading, writing, numeracy, oral communication and learning which we apply in our personal and community; workplace and employment; and education and training.

Some of the core language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) skills for participating in the training include;

- Learning – legal and ethical guidelines of work, understand various roles and responsibilities within health and work with individual differences, industry standards, safety policies and procedures.
- Oral Communication – active listening skills, communicating with clients and their family, team members, and health professionals. Communicating with clients who have impaired communication.
- Reading Skills – ability to read complex texts and extract relevant information. Reading and understanding client care plans, charts, procedures, reports, notes and work instructions, industry specific terminology, common abbreviations and symbols, workplace safety signs.
- Writing Skills – recording observations, completing forms, documents, reports, taking messages. Ability to write accurately and succinctly (i.e. spell with reasonable accuracy, legible handwriting style).
- Numeracy Skills – perform basic mathematical functions for medication calculations; measure fluids, read weights and measurements, interpret and document in charts, tables and graphs, calculate timeframes; measure and record data and interpret results.
- Digital Literacy Skills – ability to use computers and internet. Electronic recording of data and observations, and other relevant information. Use standard software as well as industry specific software. Online learning.

Australian Core Skills Framework: **dewr.gov.au/foundation-skills/australian-core-skills-framework-acsf**

CORE SKILLS FOR WORK

Listed below are the non-technical, or employability, skills that an individual student needs to develop and demonstrate during training and are highly valued by industry when seeking employment. As a student youmust be able to:

MANAGE CAREER AND WORK LIFE

- Identify work and career options.
- Undertake learning relevant to work needs and goals.
- Understand work roles and workplace rights and expectations.

INTERACT WITH OTHERS

- Communicate effectively with others.
- Work with other people to achieve outcomes.
- Regulate one's own behaviour and take responsibility for own actions.
- Seek feedback and reflect on own performance.
- Recognise and respect others with differing values, beliefs and behaviours.
- Manage conflict when it arises.

PLAN AND ORGANISE

- Effective time management skills.
- Prioritise, plan and organise own workload.
- Contribute to decision-making.

PROBLEM-SOLVE

- Identify potential problems and respond appropriately.
- Take steps to solve problems and reflect on the outcomes.

SHOW INITIATIVE

- Motivation and interest.
- Contribute to ideas to creatively solve problems or improve processes.

USE TECHNOLOGY

- Learn and adapt to using digital systems and technology.
- Access information via digital mediums.

RTO: 41026 | CRICOS: 00092B | IHE: PRV14002 | Accurate as at September 2026

The content of this brochure is subject to change. Scan the QR code or visit the TAFE SA website for up-to-date course information including delivery modes, locations and fees.

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If you are a person who is Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service **relayservice.gov.au**