DIPLOMA OF NURSING (HLT54115)

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 centred health care.

We value working together with our partners to empower individual 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 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 overview
The Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) aims to equip you with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to provide effective nursing care under the supervision of a registered nurse.

The course focuses on developing caring, reflective practitioners who are able to integrate theory into practice, problem solve and work in a collaborative team environment.

Knowledge and skills will be developed in many areas including: communication, cultural diversity, law and ethics, anatomy and physiology, acute and chronic health disorders, clinical nursing skills and medication management.

The Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) at TAFE SA is accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). Successful completion of the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) enables you to be eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

Content/structure
The qualification consists of 25 units of competence: 20 core units and 5 elective units. Full details of the units of competence can be found on the TAFE SA website.

Course admission requirements
All competitive courses require that minimum education standards be met by applicants in order to be considered for entry. However, meeting the minimum course admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance or entry into a course. For entry into the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) you must have:

> Satisfactory demonstration of reading, writing and numeracy skills by undertaking the Core Skills Profile for Adults (CSPA). Exit level scores of 3 in reading and numeracy and 2 in writing are required and any one of the following:

  Any Certificate III or higher level qualification.
  > Completion of SACE that includes an English subject or equivalent

If there are more applications for this course than places available, applicants will be ranked by CSPA score.

From 1 July 2018 all applicants must demonstrate English language competency via one of the following pathways options to provide evidence of meeting the NMBA English language skills registration standard.

i. Primary language pathway
English is your primary language and you have undertaken and satisfactorily completed:

> At least six years of primary and secondary education taught and assessed solely in English, including at least two years between 7 and 12, and
> At the time of applying for NMBA Registration as a program graduate you will have completed an NMBA approved Diploma of Nursing program and will have a qualification taught and assessed in English.

ii. Extended education pathway
A formal English language test would not be required if the applicant can demonstrate 3.5 years (full-time equivalent) of education taught and assessed in English, in any of the following recognised countries:

> Australia > South Africa
> Canada > United Kingdom
> New Zealand > United States of America
> Republic of Ireland

At the time of applying for NMBA registration as a Diploma of Nursing graduate you will have completed five years (full-time equivalent) of studies in English.

The Board will only accept the completion of five years full-time equivalent of vocational and secondary education, tertiary and secondary education, combined tertiary, secondary and vocational education, or tertiary education taught and assessed in English.

iii. English language test pathway
You have achieved the required minimum scores in one of the approved English language tests and meet the requirements for test results specified in the NMBA's English language skills registrations standard.

English language test include:

> International English Language Test Systems (IELTS) Academic module
  Requires the IELTS (academic module) with a minimum overall score of 7 and a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).

> Occupational English Test (OET)
  Requires the OET with a minimum score of B in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).

> Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)
  Requires the PTE Academic with a minimum overall score of 65 and a minimum score of 65 in each of the four communicative skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking).

> Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL IBT)
  Requires the TOEFL IBT with a minimum total score of 94 and the minimum scores of 24 for listening, 24 for reading, 27 for writing, and 23 for speaking.

Please refer visit tafesa.edu.au/nursing-requirements for further information.
Course length

It is generally accepted that a full-time student will complete the course within 18 months. Part-time students will complete the course within 3 years. There is an expectation that additional study and research will be undertaken in your own time to meet competency requirements.

The theory to practice component of this course is critical and therefore an acceptable progression through the course in a timely fashion must be adhered to. 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 preset time frame. All other students will be expected to complete within the full-time or part-time study regime.

Study modes

On campus full-time

> On campus learning allows you to learn in a classroom environment. Students attend classes at set times, at the campus where they enrolled. Students will have individual support from their contact lecturer.
> On campus attendance requirements are 4 days/week, and some additional sessions that are programmed to occur outside of this; for example: tutorials, skills development and information sessions.
> Session times are generally 9.00am – 4.00pm. There are tutorials that run outside of these times.
> Online learning and use of 3D interactive NurseSim supports the on campus requirements.
> Attendance at clinical skills assessment session weeks are compulsory.
> Locations that offer this study mode are: TAFE SA Gilles Plains and Port Adelaide.

On/off campus flexible delivery (full and part-time)

> This mode enables you to study the theory components of your course at home, in your own time, while requiring you to be on campus to take part in practical learning and clinical skills assessment sessions. It allows you to plan your work and home life around study commitments.
> You will receive individual support from your contact lecturer and the opportunity to interact with facilitating lecturers across South Australia for specialised units of competence.
> Online learning support by Lecturers using tutorials, online classrooms, video conferencing sessions, Skype for Business tutorials, tele-link sessions, discussion forums, emails, phone contact, informal study groups and use of 3D interactive NurseSim in this mode of study.
> On campus practical learning sessions will be available at specified points in the course and students are expected to attend to bring their theory into practice as part of their study pathway.
> On campus clinical skills assessment sessions are one week (5 days) and attendance will be required for each full time stage of the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) (3 stages full time = 3 weeks on campus)
> Locations that offer this study mode are: TAFE SA Whyalla, Port Pirie, Barossa Valley, Noarlunga, Mount Barker and Mount Gambier.
> Students are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements and meeting all associated costs incurred as part of that.

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<th>Stage 1 (Semester)</th>
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<td>1.1 Practical Learning sessions</td>
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<td>1.2 Practical Learning Sessions</td>
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<th>Stage 2 (Semester)</th>
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<td>2.3 Practical Learning Sessions</td>
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Subject to change
COURSE INFORMATION

On/off campus part-time
> On off campus part time allows you to learn online for much of the course, with attendance 1 night a week (night of the week to be advised) for practical learning sessions and clinical skills assessment sessions.
> Times are generally 5.00pm – 9.00pm.
> This mode enables you to study the theory components of your course at home, in your own time, while requiring you to be on campus to take part in practical learning sessions and clinical skills assessment sessions. It allows you to plan your work and home life around study commitments.
> You will receive individual support from your contact lecturer and the opportunity to interact with facilitating lecturers across South Australia for specialised units of competence.
> Online classroom learning may be enhanced by tutorials, Skype for Business tutorials, tele-link sessions, and use of 3D interactive NurseSim and informal study groups in this mode of study.
> Locations that offer this study mode are: TAFE SA Gilles Plains, Noarlunga and Port Adelaide.

Orientation (compulsory)
All students irrespective of study mode will be required to attend a 3 day orientation workshop.

Orientation welcomes new nursing students and provides detailed information about all aspects of the enrolled nursing program and competency requirements.

In addition to the 3 days orientation, a further 1 day Manual Handling Skills and 1 day Provide First Aid option may be made available.

Course cost
The approximate cost for a student who is eligible for South Australian WorkReady* funding for the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) is $8,461 – $9,415. This may vary dependent upon concessional status, electives chosen, permanent residency/citizenship and any recognition of prior learning or credit transfer that is granted and is subject to change. If you are not eligible for South Australian WorkReady funding, you will become a full fee paying student, this will be approximately $25,800.

Please note that TAFE SA does not require full payment prior to commencing the course – we encourage students to pay either one semester at a time or unit by unit. TAFE SA also offers VET Student Loans (VSL) via the Commonwealth Government, if eligibility is met. Refer to the TAFE SA website for further information.

Scholarships and financial assistance for this course are sometimes available. Further information regarding this can be obtained from the website or at your local campus.

Additional costs
You will be required to purchase at least one TAFE SA student t-shirt with your first registration (please note this fee cannot be added to VSL and must be paid in full) approximate cost is $30. You will need this for clinical placement and on campus when you are in the clinical skills laboratories. You have the opportunity to purchase additional t-shirts as required.

You will be required to wear enclosed, non-slip, waterproof shoes and black or navy pants full length, 7/8 or 3/4 pants, knee length shorts or skorts during clinical work and whilst on clinical placement.

You will be provided with a list of highly recommended texts at the commencement of your course and these will be discussed at orientation also. You have the option of purchasing these through a bookshop or online, or borrowing from the learning resource centre.

Types of assessment
All students will undertake a range of assessment tasks, these will include short answer questions, multiple choice, case studies, scenarios, essays, virtual simulations, clinical and practical. The process, method and timing of assessment are explained at the beginning of each unit.

Dual pathways
TAFE SA offer 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. Plus, you’ll receive credits for units already studied, which may reduce the time spent at University – and the cost. In most cases, the total time taken to gain a TAFE SA and university qualifications will be greater than it would take to complete a single university degree.

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

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 ‘myTAFESA’ 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.

*This course is funded through the Government of South Australia’s WorkReady initiative. Eligibility criteria apply, incidental fees may apply. Indicative prices only.
Professional Experience Placement

All students are required to undertake a minimum of 400 hours of placement in the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115). Placements are undertaken on a full-time basis and follow the shift hours of the nursing industry over 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, day/afternoon/night shift. Placements will be divided throughout your program and occur in a range of different settings such as: aged care, primary/community health, general practice, correctional services, and acute care. Please note, placements are unpaid.

TAFE SA has a placement unit that is responsible for organising placements; students are not to negotiate their own 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 the delay of course completion. Please note any travel and accommodation costs associated with attending placement will be at the students own cost.

Professional experience placement requirements

Two major placement requirements are criminal history screening and immunisation records. Detailed information about these and other placement requirements will be provided to you at orientation. Note if you do not have these requirements please wait until attendance at orientation to ensure you are applying for the correct documents.

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 for Communities and Social Inclusion are required.

*Determination of currency may vary depending on the organisational policies of the placement host.

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 your host employer on placement. Further information is available on the TAFE SA website. You can commence your immunisations prior to orientation.

Please note: students are responsible for any costs associated with obtaining a criminal history screening/police checks and appropriate immunisation records.
Informed choices

The following information is designed to outline the range of demands on nurses and to assist you in making an informed decision about your career choice. All applicants for the TAFE SA enrolled nursing program need to understand what is required of them and should feel confident in undertaking all duties listed below.

Things to consider are:

> As a nurse you will be required to read small print on forms, signs, noticeboards, equipment and medication containers. Is your sight (with glasses, if required) within a range that would enable you to read small print?

> Patient care often requires awareness of distant sounds, which may alert you to a problem. Is your hearing within a range that would enable you to hear a soft call, breathing difficulties, coughs etc from a short distance?

> As a nurse you will be required to assist patients from chairs and beds to wheelchairs, shower chairs and walking frames. Is your strength and mobility, especially in your lower back, sufficient to safely assist with manual handling tasks?

> Care of some patients will involve assisting with dressing, assisting with meals, applying bandages, administering injections and other tasks that require manipulative skills. Do you have full control and flexibility of your fingers and hands?

> In most care situations frequent hand washing is a necessity, and this means coming in contact with disinfectants and other chemically based substances. Do you have any past or present skin conditions that would cause you problems in this situation?

> Working as a nurse delivering patient care involves long days on your feet, both walking and standing. Do you have any leg or foot condition/s that would cause discomfort or render you unable to work an 8 hour day or longer?

Recognition

All students are encouraged to discuss opportunities for recognition. Recognition is a process used to assess an individual's existing level of knowledge and skills against a range of industry standards. This process is standard practice and takes place after you are accepted into the course. Please note there are fees associated with recognition.

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.

University and TAFE SA

Credit transfer arrangements may exist for students transferring from a Bachelor of Nursing to the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) from Adelaide University, the University of South Australia and Flinders University.

Students who complete a Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) are eligible to apply to any university for acceptance into the Bachelor of Nursing which ultimately leads to registration as a registered nurse. Students will need to look into each State's university entrance requirements and credit transfer arrangements to check on their eligibility.

Transfer within TAFE SA campuses

Students are not able to transfer their course offer due to the ranking process. 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 through a contact lecturer.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA)

Mandatory Registration Standards

All students enrolled in the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) are registered as students with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). TAFE SA will complete this registration with AHPRA on your behalf at no cost.

To practice in Australia you must be registered with the NMBA and hold a current practising certificate. NMBA has defined registration standards relating to continuing professional development, criminal history, English language skills and professional indemnity insurance.

You are advised to view the standards by visiting nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au.

Under the national law, students enrolled in an approved program of study must notify AHPRA within seven days of becoming aware that:

> They have been charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more or

> They have been convicted of, or are the subject of, a finding of guilt for an offence punishable by imprisonment or

> Their registration under the law of another country that provides for the registration of students has been suspended or cancelled.

Upon successful completion of the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) you will be eligible to apply for general registration as an Enrolled Nurse with the AHPRA. Further information is provided at your orientation and throughout your studies and can be accessed on the AHPRA website ahpra.gov.au.