School of Nursing and Midwifery

NURS6032: Acute Nursing Practice
Online
Trimester 2 - 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

COURSE OUTLINE

OVERVIEW

Course Description

The advance practice nurse requires diverse knowledge to appropriately and effectively assess and manage patients in an acute care environment. This course builds on the skills, knowledge and leadership of nurses in these settings and includes development of expert, specialised cognitive and technical skills to prepare nurses for advance practice roles in acute care nursing. By the end of the course students will have developed advanced practice skills to enhance the quality and safety of care for people with an acute illness and enhance their ability to influence care outcomes for both individuals and groups of patients within their chosen acute care setting.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Assumed Knowledge

Foundational nursing knowledge: nursing theory, legal and ethical issues, fundamentals of research, human bioscience, psychology, sociology related to practice. Principles of investigative approaches in nursing, concepts and theories relevant to practice, contemporary nursing issues.

Contact Hours

Online
Online Activity
Online
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)

Self-Directed Learning
Online
8 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	**Online** Mr Jeremy Pallas Jeremy.Pallas@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: See Canvas calendar to see course appointment availability and appointments
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	**School of Nursing and Midwifery** Richardson Wing University of Newcastle University Drive CALLAGHAN NSW 2308 (+61) 2 4921 6304 **Web:** http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery
General Enquiries	AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au (+61) 2 4921 5000
Program & Enrolment Advice	ProgramAdvice@newcastle.edu.au
Student Support	For academic and personal support services for students, visit https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support

SYLLABUS

Course Content

Topics to be covered include:

1. Comprehensive care in Acute Nursing (comprehensive clinical assessment of patients, interpret this clinical data and determine the clinical significance, recognition and current guidelines related to immediate and ongoing care of the patient with deteriorating conditions).

2. Acute Nursing Health care systems (theoretical frameworks underlying safety cultures in acute care, Understanding the national model of clinical governance, patient safety and quality improvement including risk management principles and understanding of regulations, policies and procedures that govern practice).

3. Acute Nursing professional practice (understanding of different models of care and the impact on professional nursing practice, for example, person-centred care, family-centred care).

4. Clinical Leadership in Acute Care environments (Leading and supporting the interdisciplinary healthcare team, enabling change and improving outcomes, and evaluation of the impact nursing leadership has on patient outcomes and the healthcare team).

5. Acute Nursing evidence based (research approaches to investigating clinical questions, Evaluating the evidence base in their clinical specialty, developing mastery for implementing evidence-based practices and undertaking policy review within their clinical specialty).

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. appraise knowledge of acute evidence-based nursing care and integrate into practice to ensure clinical excellence across contexts of acute specialist areas

2. compare and contrast contemporary models of care and professional nursing practice issues that support high quality nursing care for acutely ill individuals

3. integrate and critically apply knowledge of clinical governance systems (including National Safety and Quality Health Care accreditation standards [NSQHCS] and risk management principles), and legal and ethical frameworks to provide safe, efficient, effective and

culturally appropriate care to acutely unwell individuals

4. examine the role of clinical leadership in acute nursing practice and identify personal strategies to enhance your own leadership skills

5. develop a practice improvement project across an identified area of acute care nursing practice

Course Materials   **Recommended and Required Reading:**
Links to required readings and resources can be accessed on Canvas

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Written Assessment: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

- Assessment 2 - Written Assessment: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

- Assessment 3 - Online Quiz: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Assessment Due
Module 1 - What is 'Acute' Nursing?			
1	13 May	Contexts and definitions	
2	20 May	Advanced nursing process	
Module 2 - Models of Care			
3	27 May	Models of care (Foundations)	
4	3 Jun	Models of care (Specifics)	
Module 3 - Clinical governance, Ethics, and the Law			
5	10 Jun	Clinical governance (System wide)	
6	17 Jun	Comprehensive care, Nursing governance and Ethics	
Module 4 - Evidence Based Practice			
7	24 Jun	Research fundamentals in acute nursing	**Assessment 1:** Written Assignment. Due Sunday 30th June 2024 23:00hrs AEST
8	1 Jul	Evidence based practice, Change management and Policy	
Module 5 - Leadership in Acute Nursing			
9	8 Jul	Human factors and communication	
10	15 Jul	Nursing Leadership	**Assessment 2:** Written Assignment. Due Sunday 21st July 2024 23:00hrs AEST
Module 6 - Professional Development and Workplace Wellbeing			
11	22 Jul	Professional development in acute nursing	**Assessment 3:** Online quiz.

				Due Sunday 28th July 2024 23:00hrs AEST
12	29 Jul	Workforce sustainability and Wellness		

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assessment 1 - Written Assessment*	Sunday 30th June 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Assessment 2 - Written Assessment*	Sunday 21st July 2024 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)	Individual	45%	1, 2, 4, 5
3	Assessment 3 - Online Quiz*	The quiz will open 09:00hrs Monday 22nd July, and close Sunday 28th July 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3, 4

* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

Late Submissions   The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

POST GRADUATE COURSES ASSESSMENT AND REFERENCING ADVICE

ASSESSMENTS

If you need to apply for an extension for an assessment:

You should follow the process described in your Course Outline under the heading "Adverse Circumstances". Please note you will be required to submit documents to support your application.

Please do not email your tutor or course coordinator to request an extension because they cannot approve applications for extensions unless they have been submitted using the Adverse Circumstances process.

Formatting your assessments:

General advice - Use standard (default) margins, double line spacing and 12-point font in your assessments.
If you have additional instructions about using headings or an essay format or other formats (such as blogs) – please follow instructions provided for individual assessments.

Word Count:
The length of the assessment is an indication of the number of words needed to address the assessment task. This is a guide however, some students have difficulty keeping their writing within the specified word count. If your assessment exceeds the word count by up to 10%, the entire assessment will be marked. Tutors may stop marking if your assessment exceeds the word count by more than 10%. Please note the following information from the UON Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual (Item 250 and 251):

"Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations and quotes but does _NOT_ include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The Course Co-ordinator will allow a tolerance of at least 10% of the word limit". (https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=183)

REFERENCING:
Your assessments must be appropriately referenced. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may have lower marks awarded.

Assessments that contain information from other sources that have not been referenced and where it appears that the student is presenting another person's work or ideas as their own, will be referred to the SACO officer. This constitutes a potential breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy (https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35)

What should be referenced?
All sources of published information including textbooks, journal articles, course readings, websites, guidelines, policies and government documents that have been used to prepare an assessment MUST be included in the assessment as an in-text citation AND on the reference list.

Any documents provided to you to use in the preparation of an assessment must be referenced.
Direct quotes MUST be referenced. However, please note direct quotes should be used sparingly and should not constitute more than 10% of an assessment.

Information that you have paraphrased in your assessment must also be referenced. Correct citation of sources and referencing is expected in scholarly writing at Masters level. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may be penalised (lower marks awarded).

Correct Referencing style
You are required to use APA 7th Referencing Style in all of your assessments (unless otherwise stated). Check this link for details about using APA 7th Style: https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/apa-7th

Making Referencing Easier
Referencing your assessments is easier if you use a Reference Management Program such as "Endnote".
There is information in Canvas that will assist you to access and use the Endnote referencing program. Select: "Library Essentials" at the top right of your screen, then select "Referencing" from the list of options on the left side of the screen, and then scroll down to select "Endnote". Or click on this link: http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/endnote

Academic Integrity
All new students must complete the Academic Integrity Module (AIM), which can be accessed via the Dashboard in Canvas.

Assessments that contain information from other sources that have not been referenced and where it appears that the student is presenting another persons' work or ideas as their own, will be referred to a Student Academic Conduct Officer (SACO). This constitutes a potential breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

The Student Academic Integrity Policy is available via this link: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35

Assessment 1 - Written Assessment - Australian National Safety and Quality Standards (NSQHS) Gap Analysis

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	The focused exploration of the NSQHS standards will lead to a more grounded understanding of the standards and their real-world application. This will lead you to identify any suitable opportunities for practice improvement in line with the standards. This assessment will draw from your understanding of modules 1, 2, 3 & 4.
Description	Consider the NSQHS as they relate to your own individual practice. For this assessment you will choose any **ONE** of the standards listed below to report on:

- Standard 1 – Clinical Governance

- Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumers

- Standard 3 – Preventing and Controlling Infections

- Standard 4 – Medication Safety

- Standard 5 – Comprehensive Care

- Standard 6 – Communicating for Safety

- Standard 7 – Blood Management

- Standard 8 – Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration

Having chosen your ONE standard, you will prepare a report reflecting on the application of the standard in the following three areas:

1. **Strengths / Successes:** Explore and critically discuss how this standard can be applied successfully to improve quality and safety in the acute care setting. This section should include discussion of real-world applications sourced from the evidence and your own clinical practice where appropriate.

2. **Weaknesses / Barriers:** Explore and critically discuss any barriers that may prevent or inhibit the success of this standards application. This should include examples from the literature as well as from your own clinical practice where appropriate.

3. **Reflection on practice:** Reflect on and discuss how this standard relates to your own clinical practice. Has the standard been well demonstrated through any processes / projects? Are there any opportunities for improvement that you can identify from your practice?

Your report should contain the following sections (with approximate word counts for guidance):

1. **Introduction** (100-150 words): a brief introduction outlining the standard you have chosen and the practice context you will be reflecting on. Include a brief rationale for why you have chosen this standard.

2. **Strengths / Successes** (500 words): as above

3. **Weaknesses / Barriers** (500 words): as above

4. **Reflection on Practice** (300 words): as above

5. **Conclusion** (100-150 words): A brief conclusion

References should be in APA 7th style.

Weighting	40%
Compulsory Requirements	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
Length	1500 words
Due Date	Sunday 30th June 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)
Submission Method	Online. Canvas
Assessment Criteria	See Canvas
Return Method	Online. Canvas
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 3 weeks from submission date
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

Assessment 2 - Written Assessment – Practice Improvement Project

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	This assessment aims to support and develop your ability to evaluate, interpret and apply high quality evidence in relation to acute nursing practice through the preparation and delivery of a written project proposal.
Description	Drawing on your experience from assessment 1, this task will require you to develop a proposal to implement a practice improvement initiative in your practice context. Within any of the NSQHS standards, you will identify an opportunity for improvement that you will develop into a practice improvement project that could introduced within an acute nursing context of your choosing.
	Once you have identified your chosen improvement opportunity, you will prepare a report

outlining your practice improvement initiative under the follow subheadings:

1. **Change context (100 words):** A brief introduction to the practice context in which your proposal will be completed.

2. **Relevant NSQHS standard:** Which standard is identified as being the most relevant to your issue / improvement?

3. **Background (Problem description) (350 words):** Present in detail the problem identified for improvement. Reference existing evidence and appropriate data as necessary.

4. **Proposed change / improvement (350 words):** Present in detail the proposed change / improvement you are suggesting addressing the established problem. Reference existing evidence and appropriate data as necessary.

5. **Leadership considerations (300 words):** As the leader of this improvement project, you will discuss any appropriate leadership considerations that may affect the success of your projects implementation. Reference existing evidence and appropriate data as necessary.

6. **Barriers and enablers (300 words):** Discuss any relevant barriers or enablers identified that should be considered when reviewing this proposal as it relates to your change practice environment.

7. **Legal ethical considerations (200 words):** Discuss any legal or ethical considerations that are relevant to your proposed change.

8. **References:** APA 7th style - NB – specific care should be taken to avoid self-plagiarism from your first assessment item.

You will be preparing this project proposal from the position of the project leader and as such you should consider and include discussion of relevant leadership issues as required.

Weighting	45%
Compulsory Requirements	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
Length	1600 words
Due Date	Sunday 21st July 2024 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)
Submission Method	Online. Canvas
Assessment Criteria	See Canvas
Return Method	Online. Canvas
Feedback Provided	Online - Within 3 weeks from submission date
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

Assessment 3 - Online Quiz

Assessment Type	Quiz
Purpose	The purpose of this assessment is to test your knowledge related to the content associated with modules 1, 2, 3 & 4.
Description	You are required to complete an online quiz. There are 15 multiple choice questions. This assessment will be completed online through Canvas. You will only be allowed to have one attempt within the designated week. You will have 1 hour to complete the quiz.
Weighting	15%
Compulsory Requirements	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
Length	15 questions. 1 hour
Due Date	The quiz will open 09:00hrs Monday 22nd July, and close Sunday 28th July 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

Submission Method	Online. Canvas
Assessment Criteria	N/A
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Marks are available within 3 weeks from submission
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods Communication methods used in this course include:
- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

Course Evaluation Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
As a result of student feedback, the following changes have been made to this offering of the course:
- The course assessments have been revised based on evaluation

Oral Interviews (Vivas) As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.

Academic Misconduct All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These

standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:
https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236

Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.
© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia