This suite of Postgraduate programs in Clinical Nursing is designed to expand students' knowledge and skills in clinical nursing whilst ensuring relevance to clinical practice.

In the Graduate Certificate, students choose one clinical specialisation in which they will develop their skills in providing holistic care, including person and family-centred health promotion. Specific knowledge in the areas of bioscience, development and pharmacology and lifespan development, relevant to the chosen speciality will also be explored.

The Graduate Diploma level units focus on the development of knowledge and skills in ethics, leadership, and quality and safety in health care. Interpretation of health research is also featured.

In the Masters level units students choose to pursue either a project or research stream. The project stream consists of project and electives, while the research stream consists of a research dissertation.

The following specialties are also available fully online to students not employed in one of ACU’s partner health facilities. Students must be working in their chosen speciality or able to negotiate supernumerary clinical practice in their chosen speciality:

- Aged care
- Child and adolescent health
- Palliative care
- Perioperative
- Cardiac care
- Oncology
- Renal
- Medical
- Surgical
- Emergency

* subject to approval by Academic Board

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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CAMPUS OFFERED
Online
On-site
## MASTER OF CLINICAL NURSING

### UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

#### EXIT POINT MASTER OF CLINICAL NURSING

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#### EXIT POINT GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF CLINICAL NURSING

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#### EXIT POINT GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL NURSING (NAMED SPECIALTY)

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#### ENTRY REQUIREMENT BACHELOR OF NURSING OR EQUIVALENT CURRENT REGISTRATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY

NRSG636 Foundations of Specialty Practice 1
This unit provides the foundational scientific knowledge that underpins selected areas of specialty practice. Specific knowledge in the areas of bioscience, epidemiology, growth and development and pharmacology, relevant to the student's selected specialty area, will be explored in relation to its application to clinical practice and in the context of typical clinical scenarios.

NRSG637 Foundations of Specialty Practice 2
This unit builds on the foundational bioscience, development and pharmacology knowledge acquired in previous units. The unit focuses on the pathophysiology of complex conditions and diseases and the scientific concepts underlying complex treatments (pharmacological and other treatments). In addition, consideration is given to rehabilitative and/or palliative approaches to care in the area of specialty practice.

NRSG633 Clinical Nursing
The aim of this unit is to prepare students to provide holistic care in specialty practice. Students will examine and apply knowledge and skills for safe, competent person and family-centered care relevant to their area of specialty practice. The unit focuses on enabling students to perform a comprehensive health assessment and prioritize, implement and evaluate appropriate nursing care.

NRSG635 Extended Clinical Nursing
The unit builds on and extends the knowledge and understanding acquired in previous units. The aim is to prepare students to further develop their skills in providing holistic care, including person and family-centered health promotion, in specialty practice. The focus of the unit is on enhancing skills to work within the interprofessional team on planning care for people and families experiencing complex health problems. The student's ability to articulate the evidence base for clinical decisions will be facilitated.

HLSC623 and HLSC624 Research Dissertation Parts A and B
These two units involve the completion of a research project leading to the preparation of an academic dissertation normally of up to 15,000 and no more than 18,000 words in length. The process will start with the identification of a research problem and its formulation into a defensible research proposal based on a review of the most relevant available literature. Under the guidance of an approved supervisor the student will then conduct an individual research project in order to provide insight into the research question. The resultant enquiry will be reported in the form of a Dissertation to be submitted for independent examination.

HLSC617 Independent Project 2
This unit provides students with the opportunity to investigate a self-identified area of study drawn from a clinical/professional issues previously studied in the Master of Health Science courses. The area of study must be measurable, appropriate for the level of the course and extend the topic/issue as it relates to the student's workplace. This project will be conducted under the supervision of an ACU staff mentor appointed by the relevant Head of School.

HLSC600 Ethics in Contemporary Practice
This unit provides the opportunity for health care professionals to examine the ethical aspects of the complex personal, interpersonal, professional, institutional, and social issues that arise in contemporary health care delivery. Deciding on the appropriate responses to such issues often involves making a choice between competing and compelling positions. Students will evaluate strategies, including the use of ethical theories and principles that can be used to make, and to justify, principled choices in health care delivery.

HLSC604 Quality and Safety in Health Care
While safe health care and the provision of a safe health care environment are foremost in providing quality care, safety alone will not ensure high quality health care provision. Quality care goes far beyond a lack of errors and accidents. It is superb care that integrates safety and quality standards into the holistic care of the patient and their family. Quality care should be determined by the patient and family and their view should shape the decision-making of the health care staff and organisational administration. While this unit is framed within the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHSS), it also provides the opportunity for analysis of various accreditation programs and standards that promote quality and safety in health care agencies.

HLSC605 Leadership in Health Care
The focus of this unit is health care leadership at the level of the individual health care professional through to leadership, change and transformation at an organisational, community and sector level to achieve shared goals in order to meet the perceptions, preferences and needs of patients/clients/families as the central focus of health care. Leadership in health care is about change for practice improvement through transformation of self, transforming/engaging others, achieving outcomes, driving innovation and shaping systems. To achieve these outcomes, leaders require certain personal leadership characteristics as well as the ability to facilitate others to achieve their potential through role modelling, supporting, mentoring and empowering.

HLSC640 Interpreting Health Research
This unit addresses issues of knowledge development and the history, methods and processes of nursing, midwifery and health related research. Ways to search, read and interpret relevant literature are explored, along with approaches to analysis and synthesis of literature as a preparatory step in writing a literature review for a proposed research study.

HLSC646 Quantitative Research Methods
This unit aims to develop students' ability to use quantitative research methods in the context of health related research. Research questions, research design and research methods for qualitative data collection and analysis will be examined. The use of a variety of structured and unstructured approaches will be explored and issues of rigour and credibility will be addressed.

HLSC647 Quantitative Research Methods
This unit aims to develop students' ability to use quantitative research methods in the context of health related research. Research questions, research design and research methods for quantitative data collection and analysis will be examined. Approaches to descriptive and inferential statistical methods will be discussed as well as issues of validity and reliability. Research proposal and report writing will be included.