



THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Program Code: 4016

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Graduate Certificate in Mental Health

GradCertMH

Responsible Owner: National Head of the School of Nursing, Midwifery, Health Sciences & Physiotherapy

Responsible Office: Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences

Contact Officer: National Manager, Enrolments, Fees, and Student Administration

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

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2 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these regulations will be made in accordance with the General Regulations.

Version	Date Amended	Amendment Details	Approved by
1	August 2010	Amendments to program regulations	Dean
2	July 2011	Amendments to program regulations	Dean
3	December 2013	Regulations transferred to new template	Dean
4	September 2014	Amendments to program structure	Dean
5	September 2017	New program codes assigned	PVCA
6	October 2017	Amendment to terminology	SoNM
7	January 2021	Program description added	PCAC EO
8	May 2021	Amendments to study mode	HOS
9	December 2021	Amendment to program title and award requirements	NHOS
10	January 2024	Amendment to program description, learning outcomes, compulsory & elective courses	NHOS

3 PURPOSE

These Program Requirements set out the approved requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health.

4 OVERVIEW

4.1 Campus Availability

The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health has been approved for delivery from the Fremantle Campus.

4.2 Student Availability

The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health is available for enrolment to domestic Students.

4.3 Australian Qualifications Framework

The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health is accredited by the University as a Level 8 AQF qualification.

4.4 Duration

The Volume of Learning for the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health is 1 year of equivalent part-time study.

An option to complete this Program full-time is not available.

An accelerated option to complete the Program is not available.

4.5 Maximum Duration

The maximum period of time within which a student is permitted to complete the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Award is 3 years (including any periods of approved leave of absence) from the date on which they were first enrolled into the program by the University.

4.6 Study Mode

The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health is offered in fully online mode.

4.7 Professional Accreditation

There are no professional accreditation requirements applicable to this Program.

5 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 University Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to The University of Notre Dame Australia, all applicants must meet the [University's minimum requirements for admission](#). The requirements for admission are detailed in the University's Policy: *Admissions*.

5.2 Specific Program Requirements for Admission

To be eligible for admission to the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health applicants must also meet the following specific requirements.

- 5.2.1 Current licence to practise as a registered nurse, or practitioner with an Australian regulatory authority or full membership of an appropriate Australian or Professional organisation.

6 PRACTICUM OR INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 There are no practicum or internship requirements in this Award

7 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Program Description

The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health has been devised and developed following extensive consultation with the professions to address a shortage of practitioners in acute mental health areas. The interdisciplinary program was designed both to upskill the existing workforce and to attract and train appropriate registered nurses and allied health staff for existing and newly created positions in this expanding area of practice. This program encompasses the skills required for triage, assessment, intervention, liaison, and emergency care through a blended learning approach structured to provide students with the practical knowledge, theory, and ethics essential for the challenging acute-response environment.

7.2 Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health graduates will be able to:

1. Apply evidence-based knowledge and skills in the planning of respectful, safe, effective, and holistic nursing care for the client with acute mental health illness.
2. Integrate evidence-based models of decision making with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia National Decision-Making Framework and the Mental Health Act (1996) in the planning of patient centred care within the acute mental health context.
3. Apply evidence-based models of clinical reasoning to facilitate clear effective communication and confident negotiation skills.
4. Harness interprofessional collaboration to provide excellent patient care and achieve common goals
5. Model responsible and professional behaviours to colleagues and students in order to provide safe, culturally appropriate and socially just care within a medico-legal framework for acutely mentally ill patients.
6. Deconstruct one's own biases as a means of applying and building professional expertise in the care of acutely mentally ill patients.
7. Reflect on practice to facilitate awareness and knowledge of one's own cognition in order to establish a mechanism for lifelong learning.
8. Conduct research retrieval and enquiry to debate contemporary mental health challenges on the global stage, incorporating philosophical, technical, and social justice perspectives.

7.3 Required Courses

To be eligible for the award of Graduate Certificate in Mental Health students must complete a minimum of 100 Units of Credit chosen from the courses listed in Appendix A comprising:

100 Units of Credit from four (4) compulsory Courses

7.4 Elective Courses

Students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Mental Health are required to complete 1 elective course. Elective courses can be selected from the approved list of course offerings listed in Appendix B.

7.5 Course substitutions

Course substitution will be at the discretion of the postgraduate Program Coordinator and the National Head of School if not listed in Appendix C.

8 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these Requirements, the following definitions are available in the General Regulations.

- Leave of Absence
- Major
- Units of Credit
- Pre-requisite Course
- Minor
- Elective
- Co-requisite Course
- Specialisation
- General Elective

9 LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Graduate Certificate in Mental Health

	Units of Credit
Four (4) Compulsory Courses	
NURS4025 Interpersonal Communication	25
Please choose three (3) Electives from Appendix B	75
TOTAL	100

APPENDIX B: LIST OF ELECTIVES

Course Code	Course Title	Units of Credit
NURS5006	Professional Role Development	25
NURS6007	Introduction to Perinatal and Infant Mental Health	25
NURS4024	Contemporary Mental Health Practice	25
NURS4027	Role of the Mental Health Practitioner in an Acute Setting	25
NURS5004	Advanced Contemporary Mental Health Practice 1	25
NURS5005	Advanced Contemporary Mental Health Practice 2	25

APPENDIX C: LIST OF COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitute Course across the School & Faculty	Existing and Continuing Course
MEDI5000 Research Methods	NURS5003 Evidence-based Practice
NURS5015 Mental Health 1	NURS4024 Contemporary Mental Health Practice and NURS4025 Interpersonal Communication

Please accept the course lying parallel as a substitute for the other

Teaching out	Existing and Continuing Course
NURS4006 Evidence-based Practice and Research	NURS5003 Evidence-based Practice