



THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Program Code: 4131

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Graduate Diploma of Mental Health

GradDipMH

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

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

Contact Officer: National Manager, Enrolments, Fees & 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 requirements will be made in accordance with the General Regulations.

Version	Date Amended	Amendment Details	Approved by
1	October 2015	Change to program title	Dean
2	January 2018	New course codes assigned	PVCA
3	October 2018	Amendment to terminology	SoNM
4	January 2019	Regulations transferred to new template	PVCA
5	January 2021	Program description added	PCAC EO
6	December 2021	Amendments to program title and award requirements	NHOS
7	January 2024	Change of course title for NURS4027	NHOS

3 PURPOSE

These Program Requirements set out the approved requirements for the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health.

4 OVERVIEW

4.1 Campus Availability

The Graduate Diploma of Mental Health has been approved for delivery on the Fremantle Campus.

4.2 Student Availability

The Graduate Diploma of Mental Health is available for enrolment to domestic Students.

4.3 Australian Qualifications Framework

The Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Nursing is accredited by the University as a Level 8 AQF qualification.

4.4 Duration

The Volume of Learning for the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health is one (1) year of equivalent full-time study.

An option to complete this Program Part-time is 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 Diploma of Mental Health Award is 4 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 Diploma of Mental Health is offered in online Study 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 Diploma of Mental Health applicants must also meet the following specific requirements.

5.2.1 Current licence to practice as a Registered Nurse, 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 Diploma of Mental Health offers the mental health practitioner a logical progression from the existing Graduate Certificate along a pathway to a higher qualification. Multidisciplinary students are expected to improve practice within their sphere of work, become highly skilled advanced practitioners within their discipline areas and have greater leadership abilities within their field. The blended learning activities will provide a number of different contemporary strategies to provide support to patients in their recovery and the promotion of prevention strategies and responds to wider concepts of health service leadership and management.

7.2 Program Learning Outcomes

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

1. Consolidate and synthesise advanced practice knowledge, skills and competencies that enhance capacity to provide holistic nursing care for the client with acute mental illness.
2. Critique national and international models of care for acute mentally ill clients, including support and aftercare in the community, to the current healthcare context.
3. Employ clinical reasoning and decision-making strategies that enhance organisational capability and responsiveness in the acute mental health environment.
4. Communicate with influence and negotiate effectively with acute mentally ill people and their families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
5. Model professional behaviours to colleagues and students that provide clients with culturally appropriate and socially just care within a medico-legal framework.
6. Establish a mechanism for lifelong learning by reflecting on practice to apply and build professional expertise.
7. Steer and implement change by conducting national and international research retrieval and enquiry that incorporates philosophical, technical, and social justice perspectives on healthcare.

7.3 Required Courses

To be eligible for the award of Graduate Diploma of Mental Health students must complete a minimum of 200 Units of Credit chosen from the courses listed in Appendix A comprising:

25 Units of Credit from one (1) Core Curriculum Course

125 Units of Credit from five (5) compulsory Courses

7.4 Elective Courses

Students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Mental Health are required to complete 2 elective courses. Elective courses can be selected from the approved list of course offerings listed in Appendix B.

7.5 Course substitutions

Course substitutions, where permitted, must be approved by the Dean.

8 DEFINITIONS

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

- Pre-requisite Course
- Minor
- Elective
- Co-requisite Course
- Specialisation
- General Elective

9 LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Graduate Diploma of Mental Health

	Units of Credit
Five (5) Compulsory Courses	150
NURS4024 Contemporary Mental Health Practice	
NURS4025 Interpersonal Communication	
NURS4027 Role of the Mental Health Practitioner in an Acute Setting	
NURS5004 Advanced Contemporary Mental Health Practice 1	
NURS5005 Advanced Contemporary Mental Health Practice 2	
NURS5003 Evidence Based Practice	
One (1) Core Curriculum Course:	25
PHIL6020 Ethical Issues for Professional Life	
One (1) Postgraduate Nursing Elective	25
TOTAL	200

APPENDIX B: LIST OF ELECTIVES

Course Code	Course Title	Units of Credit	Campus
	Postgraduate Nursing Elective		
NURS5006	Professional Role Development	25	Fremantle
NURS6007	Introduction to Perinatal and Infant Mental Health	25	Fremantle
NURS5017	Emotional Intelligence	25	Fremantle
LAWS3382	Mental Health and Law	25	Fremantle & Sydney
COUN6009	Trauma, Loss and Grief	25	Fremantle & Sydney
COUN6010	Specialised Counselling	25	Fremantle & Sydney

APPENDIX C: LIST OF PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	PRE-REQUISITE
NURS5004	Advanced Contemporary Mental Health Practice 1	NURS4024 Contemporary Mental Health Practice NURS4025 Interpersonal Communication NURS4027 Role of the Mental Health Practitioner in an Acute Setting
NURS5005	Advanced Contemporary Mental Health Practice 2	NURS4024 Contemporary Mental Health Practice NURS4025 Interpersonal Communication NURS4027 Role of the Mental Health Practitioner in an Acute Setting