



THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Program Code: 2577

# **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

## **Associate Degree in Nursing**

### **AssocDegNurs**

Responsible Owner: National Head of the School of Nursing & Midwifery  
Responsible Office: Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences  
Contact Officer: National Manager, Enrolments, Fees & Student Administration  
Effective Date: 1 January 2026



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

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## 2 AMENDMENTS

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

Version	Date Amended	Amendment Details	Approved by
1	May 2026	Program created	
2			
3			
4			
5			

### 3 PURPOSE

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These Program Requirements set out the approved requirements for the Associate Degree in Nursing. It applies to students who commenced in 2022 or later. **This is an early exit program only.** Applicants to enrol in the Bachelor of Nursing (BN) and exit with the Associate Degree in Nursing.

### 4 OVERVIEW

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#### 4.1 Campus Availability

The Associate Degree in Nursing has been approved as an exit pathway from the Bachelor of Nursing, for delivery on the Fremantle Campus and Sydney Campus.

#### 4.2 Student Availability

The Associate Degree in Nursing is available for enrolment to domestic Students.

#### 4.3 Australian Qualifications Framework

The Associate Degree in Nursing is accredited by the University as a Level 6 AQF qualification.

#### 4.4 Duration

The Volume of Learning for the Associate Degree in Nursing is two (2) years of equivalent full-time study.

#### 4.5 Maximum Duration

The maximum period of time within which a student is permitted to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing is four (4) years.

#### 4.6 Study Mode

The Associate Degree in Nursing is offered in Internal mode.

#### 4.7 Professional Accreditation

This exit pathway does not lead to registration as a nurse and therefore is not subject to professional accreditation.

#### 4.8 Student Registration with the Nurses and Midwives Board of Australia

Students will be registered with the Nurses and Midwives Board of Australia (NMBA) as nursing students while they are enrolled in the BN, of which this Program is an exit pathway.

#### 4.9 Inherent Requirements

There are inherent requirements for the Bachelor of Nursing, of which this program is an exit pathway. These can be found online and in Appendix B.

### 5 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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#### 5.1 University Admission Requirements

This is an early exit program only. Applicants are enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing and exit with the Associate Degree in Nursing award.

#### 5.2 Specific Program Requirements for Admission

Students must complete the compulsory core curriculum program and at least 2 practicum courses successfully.

## 6 PRACTICUM OR INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

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Students are required to complete 100 credit points of Professional Practice in order to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing.

## 7 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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### 7.1 Program Description

The Associate Degree in Nursing is an exit qualification for students who have completed 2 years and 400 credit points of the Bachelor of Nursing Program.

The curriculum emphasizes person-centred care, focusing on critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and the use of current evidence and research. Students will explore communication, cultural safety, and the healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program also addresses global, national, and regional health priorities.

The program adopts an iterative learning approach, starting with foundational concepts in the first year, such as human anatomy, nursing practice, and health determinants. In the second year, students delve into health breakdown and develop skills for comprehensive care planning, with an emphasis on patient safety and quality care. Throughout the program, theoretical courses are integrated with professional practice to help students consolidate their knowledge and skills across various settings.

### 7.2 Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Associate Degree in Nursing, graduates will be able to:

1. Understand the need for safe, ethical, person-centred care within the scope of practice of an associate-level nursing role.
2. Engage in reflection and self-evaluation to support ongoing learning and development.
3. Apply critical thinking and sound judgement to contribute to safe and effective care.
4. Use evidence-informed approaches to support care activities and service delivery.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of professional nursing values and reflect on personal beliefs to support compassionate, person-centred care.
6. Develop culturally responsive, empathetic, and inclusive care practices through reflexivity and self-awareness.

### 7.3 Required Courses

To be eligible for the award of Associate Degree in Nursing students must complete a minimum of 400 Units of Credit chosen from the courses listed in Appendix A.

Compulsory courses include: NURS1037; CORE 1000, NURS1040 and NURS1043, plus 250 credit points of subjects from the courses listed in Appendix A.

### 7.4 Course substitutions

Course substitutions are permitted in this Award and must be approved by the Head of Discipline. Course substitutions are not permitted for the compulsory courses.

### 7.5 Program Progression Pathways

The Associate Degree in Nursing must be taken in an order set out Appendix A and all first-year courses must be completed prior to entering the second year.

Any deviation to the prescribed stages and progression pathway must be approved by the Head of Discipline.

Students cannot exceed the maximum of 100 credit points per stage or four courses per semester without prior approval from the Head of Discipline or delegate.

## 8 DEFINITIONS

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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: Associate Degree in Nursing

YEAR ONE (Y1)			
	Course Code	Course Title	Units of Credit
Stage 1	NURS1037	Foundations of Nursing-Compulsory	25
	NURS1038	Human Body 1	12.5
	NURS1039	Health & Wellness	12.5
	NURS1040	Professional Practice 1 (Nursing Practice 1)-Compulsory	50
Stage 2	CORE1000	Foundations of Wisdom-Compulsory	25
	NURS1041	Human Body 2	12.5
	NURS1042	Research for Practice	12.5
	NURS1043	Professional Practice 2 (Nursing Practice 2)-Compulsory	50
<b>Total Units of Credit (Y1)</b>			<b>200</b>

YEAR TWO (Y2)			
	Course Code	Course Title	Units of Credit
Stage 3	NURS2034	Clinical Therapeutics 1	12.5
	Core Elective	Core Curriculum Elective	25
	NURS2035	Law and Ethics	12.5
	NURS2036	Professional Practice 3 (Nursing Practice 3)	50
Stage 4	NURS2041	Clinical Therapeutics 2	12.5
	NURS2042	Illness Prevention and Management	25
	NURS2039	Mental Health and Wellbeing	12.5
	NURS2040	Professional Practice 4 (Nursing Practice 4)	50
<b>Total Units of Credit (Y2)</b>			<b>200</b>
<b>Total Program Units of Credit</b>			<b>400</b>

## APPENDIX B: Inherent Requirements

In addition to meeting academic requirements for the Associate Degree of Nursing students must also demonstrate a range of cognitive, behavioural, and physical competencies (inherent requirements) may be necessary for ensuring the provision of safe, ethical healthcare.

Consistent with schools of nursing nation-wide, these additional requirements have been adopted in recognition of the increased vulnerability of persons at times of illness, injury and/ or disability. In general, inherent requirements for nursing aim to capture those capabilities that nurses must possess in order to both complete the requisite courses of study, and to ensure the ethical integrity of care provided to persons, families and communities.

The University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame) is committed to meeting the legislative requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) (DDA) and the Disability Standards for Education (2005).

Notre Dame welcomes applications from students with a range of disabilities. Where a disability affects an inherent requirement, the School of Nursing will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to assist students in meeting the relevant requirement(s). However, reasonable adjustments do not allow any changes to the fundamental nature of the actual inherent requirements.