Make a Difference – Study Nursing at the University of Notre Dame

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Making a difference

“I loved the interaction with people and the sense that I was truly making a difference in people’s lives”.

This theme of making a difference is central to the story of Nursing
Ms. Nightingale not only cut the death rate among soldiers in the Crimean War, she raised the status of nurses from shameful to highly respected.
Locally and globally there are complex health challenges

• Populations are living longer
• Populations are more diverse and the health needs are complex
• Chronic disease in epidemic proportions
  – 90% of all the deaths in Australia from chronic disease are in the low – middle classes
Locally and globally there are complex health challenges

Nurses can make a difference to individuals and communities through leadership, education and training and by caring for and supporting healthy communities
Making a difference - locally

Nurses

• Make a difference to the patient experience
• Improve patient outcomes
• Are central to the multidisciplinary health care team
• Coordinate patient care
• Influence health policy
• Positively effect the health of individuals and communities
Making a difference - globally

Nurses
• Make a difference in developing countries
• Volunteer in developing countries
• Work with non government agencies
Where do nurses make a difference

• After registration, registered nurses can work in a wide range of areas
• The career pathway is diverse and rewarding
  – Clinical – hospitals and primary health care
  – Community and aged care
  – Education
  – Management
  – Health Policy
  – Research
Nursing at Notre Dame

• 96% of graduating nurses from the UNDA Sydney School of Nursing were successful in gaining graduate positions in 2013 (state average 50%).

• UNDA School of Nursing is one of the top 10% schools for:
  • Overall satisfaction with the course (92.1% ranked 1st)
  • Good teaching (81.9% ranked 2nd)
  • Development of generic skills (96.1% ranked 1st)  
    – (My university website data)
Bachelor of Nursing
Bachelor of Nursing

• In 2015, we are planning on introducing a new Bachelor of Nursing
  – We are currently in the process of seeking accreditation through the Australian Nurse Midwifery Accreditation Council
Significant changes include

• Slight reduction in practicum hours for first year
  – We acknowledge that the first year is very busy for students new to the university
  – Provide a break between the semester

• Greater emphasis on primary care

• Additional electives including perioperative nursing
Degree structure

1st year
- Human body
- Nursing practice
- Ethical and legal
- Primary health - aged
- Communication
- Professional practice
- Sociology

2nd year
- Acute care nursing
- Pathophysiology & pharmacology
- Research
- Mental health
- Primary health – child and family
Degree structure

3rd year
• Mental health
• The deteriorating patient
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People’s health
• Leadership and governance
• Chronic illness and rehabilitation
• Transition to practice

Electives
• Advanced mental health nursing
• Critical care nursing
• Perioperative nursing
• Mothers and newborn care
• Paediatrics
• Palliative care
Tutorials

• Small class sizes
• Opportunities for case based learning
• Develop problem solving and clinical reasoning
Simulated tutorials

• Small class sizes (12)
• Opportunities for clinical learning
• State of the art simulation
Workplace experience

- 6-11 weeks each year
- Immersion in the clinical environment
- Scaffolded by structured activities
- Placements include:
  - Aged care
  - Community
  - Medical/surgical
  - Perioperative
  - Mental health
  - Critical care
  - Rural and remote
- Range of locations
School of Nursing received a Vice Chancellor’s award for the quality of the clinical program
What makes UNDA different
What makes UNDA Nursing different?

• Pastoral care
• Boutique size
• Staff-student relationships
• Excellent graduate success
• Excellent teaching
• Excellent industry reputation
Peer and staff support
THANK YOU

Any Questions?

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