Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Nursing
UNDAY Course Code 4120

Introduction
As a Notre Dame student you will experience a personalised education and interact with staff dedicated to teaching and the pastoral care of all students.

The School of Nursing, aims to provide is an innovative approach to the professional development of registered nurses in the workforce. The course offers the balance of practical, theoretical and professional support using a combined health sector and tertiary education approach

About Substance Abuse Nursing Studies
The Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Nursing is designed to meet the needs of Registered Nurses in practice in specialist treatment services providing assessment and interventions for people with substance use problems and substance use disorders. The course has a strong commitment to applying current theoretical perspectives to recent advances in prevention and intervention for substance use problems and their psychosocial consequences for individuals and families, communities and workplaces. The theoretical component will provide a scholarly examination of aetiological explanations of substance use and disorder. A major focus, however, will be how theory is applied to the practice arena of nurses working in substance use nursing. Major treatment approaches will therefore be explored and students will be expected to reflect on their own practice, review clinical outcomes and share their findings in a collaborative manner with others participating in the course. Co-morbidity of substance use and mental health problems will be a particular focus, in reflection of the high prevalence co-morbidity in the Australian community.

Why Study the Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Nursing at Notre Dame?
Graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Nursing will be advanced practitioners in substance use assessment and intervention, substance use research and evaluation, and demonstrate leadership in case management of substance use problems and disorders. These core elements of professional practice will be informed by contemporary trans-disciplinary knowledge and clinical supervision methods. Graduates will be able to maintain advanced clinical practice across the diverse domains of care that constitute substance use nursing.

Course structure
The course will consist of four (4) units. These units are interlinked academically and clinically. They are completed in part-time mode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Code</th>
<th>Unit Title</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
<th>Mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NS4011</td>
<td>Responding to Substance Use and Substance Disoders</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*NS4001</td>
<td>Clinical Placement 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Clinical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS4009</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Intensive on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>NS4012</td>
<td>Reading Topic</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Combination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Credit given for completion of new graduate program

Learning outcomes
On completion of the course, the student will:
- Provide evidence-based, holistic substance use nursing care to consumers and carers;
- Employ effective advanced clinical communication and interpersonal skills;
- Fulfil the role of the professional registered nurse within specialist substance use treatment services;
- Function as an effective member of the trans-disciplinary substance use health care team;
- Evaluate their own performance and meet learning and developmental objectives; and
- Understand the need for continuing professional development.

Mode of study and teaching methodologies
The Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Nursing will be delivered in an internal, on-campus mode, with additional online learning and support. The Responding to substance use and Substance use disorders unit will have on-campus workshops which are designed to appraise and augment clinical skills, encourage student interaction and the sharing of experiences. Simulated case based scenarios will be used throughout the units and students will be encouraged to adopt a reflective framework as the basis of each unit. The course is tailor made for nurses who are seeking to improve the quality of patient care and to maximise career opportunities.

Admission requirements
Applicants to the course on the Sydney Campus will be required to have:
(i) A current license to practice as a Registered Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia or provisional registration, whichever is applicable at the time of the student’s course commencement;
(ii) An undergraduate degree in Nursing or other appropriate degree or the equivalent;
(iii) Relevant post-registration nursing experience in a substance use health area.

Fees
Fees will be based on Standard Post Graduate tuition fees. The clinical units will be fee-exempt.

Tertiary progression
Successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Nursing would be the foundation to further studies in the form of Graduate Diplomas or Masters Degrees.

Further information
The information contained in this publication is designed as a basic description. If you would like further information regarding admissions, fees or the University itself, please contact the Prospective Students Office on (02) 8204 4404 or at sydney@nd.edu.au.