Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing

This program prepares registered nurses for specialty mental health nursing practice. You’ll study advanced individual and group counselling, mental health treatment, contemporary mental health issues and research.

You will be able to demonstrate advanced, evidence-based mental health nursing knowledge and skills and be able to identify and address contemporary and emerging issues influencing mental health nursing practice.

RMIT Nursing has been providing nursing education in Australia for 40 years and sits at the forefront of nursing education and research.

Learning and teaching

Courses are offered via distance education/online and face-to-face classes supplemented by online material. On-campus classes run on Mondays.

All lectures are video recorded for distance education students and to provide flexible learning.

You will experience a range of learning approaches including learner-centred curriculum, activities and projects, and working in multidisciplinary teams.

Industry connections

RMIT University is committed to providing you with an education that strongly links formal learning with professional or vocational practice.

Career outlook

Graduates pursue careers in mental health nursing in a wide range of hospital and community settings across metropolitan and rural areas.

Professional recognition

Graduates can join the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses and cite this qualification as part of their application for credentialing. Credentialed mental health nurses can be funded for employment under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program.

Graduates can apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, which will allow you to obtain a provider number for private practice or practice in any Australian state or territory. To register you need English languages skills at IELTS academic level 7 or equivalent within the two years prior to registration.

Program structure

The Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing consists of 96 credit points.

The program is structured to enable you to:

- critically analyse the impact of ideological and political discourses on the development of Australian healthcare policies and practices
- critically analyse the impact of changing technologies on clinical practice
- conceptualise future directions in healthcare policies and practices
- explore the nature and implications of moral and legal accountability, responsibility and liability in professional practice
- discuss the nature and implications of human rights and social justice considerations in healthcare domains
- examine critically key ethical and legal issues relevant to professional healthcare practice in institutional and community-based settings
- critically describe the models of health education, and the principles of adult learning and health promotion
- analyse the concept of multiculturalism as applied to Australia with particular reference to the health care system
- examine critically different approaches to health care research

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/gd158
Program structure (continued)

You must complete eight courses (12 credit points each), consisting of seven core courses and one elective.

Core courses (complete all seven)

Semester 1 courses

NURS1042 – Foundations of Mental Health Nursing Partnerships
This course focuses on developing your education and skills required for therapeutic interactions with individuals and groups. Theoretical content includes the principles of effective counselling, theories of individual and groups counselling, individual counselling approaches, group processes and theories of group dynamics.

NURS1066 – Context of Mental Health Nursing
You will develop your ability to recognise and differentiate between psychiatric disorders within the existing criteria for classification and diagnosis of mental illness. Cultural beliefs and concepts of mental illness are explored. There is an emphasis on current treatment modes for psychiatric disorders and disabilities, including the role of pharmacology in the treatment of each specific mental disorder.

NURS2118 – Therapeutic Initiatives in Mental Health
You will enhance your knowledge and practical skills in order to undertake counselling with individuals and their families. Particular attention is given to triage, assessment, motivational interviewing and applying and evaluating cognitive behavioural strategies with complex client presentations.

NURS2119 – Dual Diagnosis and Community Work
This course examines dual diagnosis and common comorbidities associated with mental illness. You will be exposed to a range of therapeutic stratagems and interventions for working with individuals across the service continuum.

Semester 2 courses

NURS1049 – Mental Health Nursing Clinical Portfolio
You will draw on professional psychiatric nursing theory and knowledge to develop a conceptual framework on which to base your clinical practice. Particular emphasis is placed on the development of clinical practice skills underpinned by the standards of the Australian Nursing Council Incorporated (ANC) and the Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses (ANZCMHN).

NURS1087 – Assessment Analysis in Mental Health Nursing
This course develops skills in holistic psychiatric nursing assessment. Multiple assessment models are examined from theoretical and practical perspectives. Assessment for anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, mood disorders, eating disorders, family violence and sexual assault will be explored.

PUBH1080 – Health Inquiry Critique
This course will provide you with an opportunity to hone your ability to continually develop and transform practice through the processes of research, critical evaluation and reflection. You are encouraged to engage in and contribute to the development of research and evidence-based nursing and midwifery practice.

Elective courses examples (choose one)

– Foundations of Narrative Counselling
– Leadership and Management
– Loss, Trauma and Grief
– Quality Improvement for Health Care Professionals
– Forensic Psychology
– Parent-Infant Mental Health

The program is based on the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) Credentialing Guidelines.

Please note: The Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Nursing forms the first two semesters of the Master of Mental Health Nursing. Students completing the Graduate Diploma at RMIT are only required to complete one additional semester of full-time study to obtain the master qualification. A part-time option is also available.

How to apply

Direct to RMIT University:
mit.edu.au/programs/apply/direct

Application dates Semester 1, 2017
– Applications open 14 August 2016
– Applications close 10 November 2016

Late applications will continue to be accepted after this date if places are still available.

Entry requirements

– A Bachelor of Nursing degree, or equivalent, or a bachelor degree in psychiatric/mental health nursing from an approved higher education institution. (In the case of nurses with senior experience in mental health a diploma may be considered equivalent)
– Current registration or be eligible for registration as a Registered Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
– 840 hours of supervised clinical practice already completed in the field of mental health nursing OR you are completing this as part of a graduate year program in mental health nursing or supervised practice during the candidature

Diploma at RMIT are only required to study to obtain the master qualification.

Fees

How much you’ll pay will depend on whether you’re offered a Commonwealth supported place or a full-fee place. Entry for this program is primarily through Commonwealth supported places. Government financial assistance is available to eligible students regardless of the type of place you enrol in.

Fees apply to 2017 only and are based on an annual full-time study load of 96 credit points unless otherwise noted. A proportionate fee applies for more or less than the full-time study load. Tuition fees are adjusted on an annual basis and these fees should only be used as a guide.

For more information and to learn how to calculate your exact tuition fees see:
mit.edu.au/programs/fees/postgraduate