

Health Sciences

MASTER OF NURSING (BREAST CARE)

The Master of Nursing (Breast Care) (integrating the Graduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma) is designed to provide nurses with the theoretical and clinical preparation that meets the National education level for specialist Breast Care Nurses (BCN's) in Australia. The course is run in conjunction with The Cancer Council of Victoria.

The first year introduces students to the treatment and management of breast care throughout the lifetime continuum, and contemporary breast care nursing practices are examined. On completion of first unit: Breast Care Nursing: Foundations for Practice.

The first year students can apply for accreditation as specialist Breast Care Nurses through the Cancer Council of Victoria.

The second year provides the opportunity for students to further advance their knowledge and skills in preparation for leadership roles, offering a choice of three streams including the option of the Nurse Practitioner stream which is intended to lead to endorsement for those appropriately qualified.

Admission Requirements

Potential students must be employed by an agency approved by the Course Coordinator. They must also have a minimum one year recent relevant nursing experience.

The course is open to students who are registered as a Division 1 nurse with the Nurses Board of Victoria (NBV) or similar registration in another state or territory and normally hold a degree or diploma from a college or university.

Duration

Graduate Certificate:	1 year part time
Postgraduate Diploma:	1 year full time, 18 months part time
Masters:	2 years part time 1.5 years full time 2 years – 3 years part-time

Mode of Study

This course is offered via distance education which caters for people who may be working, living interstate or who may not be in a position to attend classes during normal working hours.

At the Diploma and Master's level, elective units of study are offered in a variety of delivery modes such as face to face, on-line or independent study.

Clinical Practice

It is preferable for students to be working in an area related to breast care nursing.

DIVISION OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Institutional Credit

The Division of Nursing and Midwifery have arrangements in place with Austin Health, The Alfred Hospital, Box Hill Hospital, Southern Health, Bendigo Health, Werribee Health and South West Health Care whereby certain programs undertaken at these health care organisations may attract credit towards some of the postgraduate courses offered within the Division of Nursing and Midwifery.

Advanced Standing

The Division of Nursing and Midwifery will consider requests for recognition of prior studies. At La Trobe, this is known as 'Advanced Standing'. Students can obtain an 'Application for Advanced Standing' form from the Division of Nursing and Midwifery.

Students who have completed a Postgraduate Diploma within the Division of Nursing & Midwifery may receive up to 120 credit points of Advanced Standing.

Students who have completed Postgraduate Study with another institution may receive up to 60 credit points of Advanced Standing.

Course Structure

- **Masters of Nursing (Breast Care)**
= 9 Units or 180 Credit points
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Breast Care)**
= 6 Units or 120 Credit points
- **Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Breast Care)**
= 3 Units or 60 Credit points

The Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Breast Care) consists of 3 units of study:

NSG4BCF *Breast Care Nursing: Foundations for Practice*
 NSG4SBC *Specialist Breast Care Nursing Practice*
 NSG4CBC *Current Issues in Breast Care Nursing Practice*

The Postgraduate Diploma consists of a Clinical Audit or Clinical Practice unit and 2 elective units (3 units in total).

The Master of Nursing (Breast Care) consists of a further 3 elective units at level 5. Students wishing to complete their Masters are required to complete 60 credit points at level 4 (Cert/Dip units) and 120 credit points at level 5 (Masters level units).

Career Prospects

Graduates have the potential to fill leadership positions and will be strategically placed to develop new and exciting specialist roles as Breast Care Nurses.

Further Information and How to Apply

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