

UTS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ACUTE CARE NURSING

Due to concerns about the lack of a post graduate university course for Registered Nurses working in gastroenterology services, the NSW Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce (GMCT) Gastroenterology Network, together with the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), the Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia (GENCA) and the Australasian Hepatology Association (AHA) have worked since 2006 to identify and develop a suitable post-graduate course for acute care gastroenterology nurses. The GMCT Gastroenterology Network, UTS, GENCA and the AHA have mapped existing gastroenterology nursing competencies against all components of the UTS *Graduate Certificate Course in Acute Care Nursing* and the course has subsequently been formally endorsed by the GMCT Gastroenterology Network, GENCA and AHA, for gastroenterology and hepatology RNs.

UTS Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing

The UTS Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health introduced the *Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing* in 2007. The graduate certificate provides nurses with the knowledge and skills for a specialist role as an advanced Acute Care Nurse and helps students to critically evaluate their practice and incorporate research findings and technologies as appropriate. Students learn to recognise and support the unique characteristics of the acute care patient population and develop skills to actively contribute to the professional development of others and use research in order to make informed decisions about their nursing practice.

The reality in today's health care system is that whilst patients may encounter gastroenterological services, the majority of patients will have significant co-morbidities and other acute and chronic conditions that greatly increase the complexity of patient care. For RNs working in NSW public hospitals, the ability to manage these patients is complicated and the UTS *Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing* provides a strong connection between gastroenterology-specific and acute care nursing practice. The course explores nurses' knowledge gaps and helps to build confidence to coordinate management across a range of clinical settings, such as surgical, medical and endoscopy gastroenterology nursing.

The UTS *Graduate Certificate Course in Acute Care Nursing* is currently offered to RNs working in all acute care medical/surgical areas (eg including gastroenterology, hepatology, medical and surgical wards, endoscopy, stomal therapy services). The deadline for applications for the 2008 intake is **31 January 2008**.

Nurses interested in taking the UTS *Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing* in 2008 are encouraged to contact UTS as soon as possible, details are provided below:

Christopher Gordon, UTS Acute Care Nursing Course Coordinator:

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Mobile: 0418 602 816.

Email: Christopher.Gordon@uts.edu.au

Website: <http://www.uts.edu.au/study/postgrad.html>

<http://www.handbook.uts.edu.au/nmh/pg/c11201.html#F26>

For outline details about the UTS Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing please see overleaf

***Are you a Registered Nurse working in a NSW public hospital?
Interested in further study in 2008?***

***C11201: UTS Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing
All the details you need are provided below:***

- Costs: \$1254 per subject. There are 4 subjects.
- Application closing date:
 - Round 1: 31 October 2007
 - Round 2: 30 November 2007
 - Round 3: 31 January 2008
- You can download an application form at:
<http://www.nmh.uts.edu.au/courses-subjects/pg-application-form.pdf>
- You need to be working in the area for at least one year's service and should have concurrent employment.
- Citizenship proof.
- Current NSW nursing registration.
- Undergraduate degree in nursing or equivalent tertiary qualification OR Registered nurses who do not have an undergraduate diploma or degree but who have recent relevant work experience may also be considered eligible (such applicants must present evidence of a capacity to undertake tertiary study).
- For Registered Nurses working in NSW public hospitals, scholarship opportunities are available from the NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery Office (NAMO). Details will be posted on the NSW Health NAMO website in December 2007, see:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing/postgrad.html#postgrad>