

AQF LEVEL	AQF LEVEL 8 CRITERIA – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE		PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PURPOSE	The Graduate Certificate qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional/highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning.		
KNOWLEDGE	<p>Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have specialised knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area</p>	<p>In the context of acute care nursing practice, graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing will have advanced knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of the nurse in advanced practice within the various clinical, political and professional contexts • the scientific and theoretical basis for the clinical assessment, management and care of acutely ill patients and groups with altered physiological function • the multiple legal, social, ethical, organisational and scope of practice implications and considerations for effective and informed advanced practice and professional role development in acute care • contemporary concepts of leadership and management relevant to health services including standards, policies and legislation associated with advanced nursing practice • research and evidence-base that informs quality and safe nursing practice and health care. 	
SKILLS	<p>Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems • cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas • specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice • communication skills to demonstrate 	<p>In the context of acute care nursing practice, graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing will have:</p> <p>Advanced cognitive skills that demonstrate their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • synthesise nursing and related content knowledge and professional experience for contemporary practice in acute care nursing • investigate, analyse and synthesise information, problems, and concepts to interdisciplinary bodies of knowledge and practice in education to inform acute care nursing practice • design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise the use of techniques, materials, processes, and contemporary practices in nursing care. <p>Advanced professional clinical and non-clinical technical skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct focused and comprehensive health assessments of clients within an expanded scope 	

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

<p>an understanding of theoretical concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences 	<p>of practice in complex and unfamiliar client care situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify normal and abnormal states of health through synthesis and interpretation of assessment information including client history, physical findings and results of investigations to inform differential diagnoses. • initiate nursing care and interventions and manage acutely ill patients using research and evidence. <p>Advanced communication skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solve clinical and practice problems communicate complex knowledge and ideas, including an understanding of theoretical concepts, to patients, their families, other healthcare professionals and a variety of audiences in a variety of acute care nursing practice settings.
<p>Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts • to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts • with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters 	<p>In the context of advanced acute care nursing practice, graduates of this program will demonstrate the application of advanced knowledge and skills by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practising in a safe, collaborative and evidence-based manner within their scope of practice in acute care nursing in accordance with contemporary nursing models of care and professional regulatory standards of practice • assessing the health status of individuals and/or populations and, where necessary, formulate, implement and monitor management plans in consultation with patients, their families and the community • demonstrating professional knowledge and behaviours as determined by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council. • retrieving, critically evaluating and applying evidence in the performance of nursing and healthcare in the context of acute care • evaluating the impact of social factors on health of individuals and communities and moderating these influence of these thereby promoting and optimising the health and welfare • contributing to local and national nursing and health policy and services that enhance the health of individuals and communities • reflecting on current acute care nursing skills, knowledge and attitudes, and plan ongoing personal and professional development.