TasTAFE TASMANIA

HLT54121 DIPLOMA OF NURSING

Reg. 60142 | CRICOS 03041M

Working as an enrolled nurse is fast paced, challenging and personally rewarding. If you're interested in this exciting profession, apply for TasTAFE's Diploma of Nursing today.

As part of the course, you'll learn a variety of skills, including how to perform clinical assessments, how to care for people with complex needs and how to administer and monitor medications. You'll also complete three placements in real healthcare facilities as well as learning in TasTAFE's state-of-the-art simulation wards.

TasTAFE's Diploma of Nursing program is delivered and assessed across three distinct phases of learning:

- **Phase 1 – Laying the foundation**
- **Phase 2 – Developing clinical competence**
- **Phase 3 – Consolidating clinical competence**

Each phase provides students with the opportunity to participate in theoretical and simulated practical learning in order to develop their skills and knowledge.

At the culmination of each phase of learning, students are provided with workplace based professional experience opportunities across a range of healthcare settings.

Overview

The Diploma of Nursing is accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council and is an approved program of study with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. On successful completion of the course, you'll be eligible to apply for general registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to work as an enrolled nurse.

Note - TasTAFE does not issue the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia registration, and it is your responsibility to meet any additional requirements.

The diploma has 25 units which you can view on the TasTAFE website.

Duration

There are two durations:

1. A **2-year pathway** requiring a minimum commitment of 20 hours per week.

2. An 1**8-month pathway** requiring a minimum commitment of 30 hours per week.

Both pathways are a full-time study load.

Attendance modes

The 2-year pathway attendance mode is:

- 1 day a week on campus from 9am - 3.30pm (days provided in timetable).
- 1 day a week virtual tutorial via Zoom (2 x 1-hour tutorials and a 1-hour study support session).
- 12 hours a week for structured and directed course content in Canvas.

The 18-month pathway attendance mode is:

- On-campus attendance: combination of either 1–2 days per week or full-time block attendance, depending on the campus.
- 2 days a week virtual tutorial via Zoom (2 x 1-hour tutorials and a 1-hour study support session each day).
- 24 hours a week for structured and directed course content in Canvas.

Study locations

The Diploma of Nursing is available at the following TasTAFE campuses:

- Alanvale (Launceston)
- Clarence (Hobart)
- Devonport

Check the TasTAFE website for intake dates.

Entry Requirements

Prior to enrolling in this qualification, learners must satisfy the following entry requirements. All pieces of evidence must be certified by a Commissioner for Declarations.

All applicants **must be 18 years old at time of course commencement** and provide evidence of the following:

1. Your completed Informed choices: Self-assessment.
2. Participate in a career conversation
3. A competency of at least Exit Level 3 in the Australian Core Skills Framework in both language and numeracy via a Basic Key Skills Builder (bksb) assessment.
4. A certified copy of a national police check (please request Option one, Schedule one, Child Related Health) less than 12 months old.
5. English language standard as explained below.

English Standard

Students admitted to ANMAC accredited Diploma of Nursing programs whose primary language is English must sign a declaration, provided by TasTAFE to state they meet the requirement below, refer point 1.

All other students must provide either evidence to support point 3 or a valid English language test result as stated in point 4, specific details provided below.

The Diploma of Nursing is an approved program of study for registration as an Enrolled nurse within Australia. This is determined through an accreditation process undertaken in consultation with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). As such, Standard 6.1a of the ANMAC Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards stipulates that:

"students that would be required by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) to provide a formal English language skills test when applying for registration, must provide a formal English language test result demonstrating they have achieved the NMBA specified level of English language skills, prior to commencing the program."

The NMBA Registration Standard for English Language Skills is as follows:

1. **English is your primary language and**:

   a. you have attended and satisfactorily completed at least **six years of primary and secondary education** taught and assessed solely in English in a **recognised country**, including at least two years between years 7 and 12, **and**

   b. your tertiary qualification in the relevant professional discipline, which you are relying on to support your eligibility for registration under the **National Law** was taught and assessed solely in English in a **recognised country*** and:

      i. in the case of a registered nurse and/ or midwife, you must provide evidence of having successfully completed at least a two (2) years full-time equivalent pre-registration program of study approved by the recognised nursing and/or midwifery regulatory body in a **recognised country*.**

      ii. in the case of an enrolled nurse, you must provide evidence of having successfully completed at least a one year full-time equivalent pre-registration program of study approved by the recognised nursing and/or midwifery regulatory body in a recognised country.

   OR

2. **Registered Nurses and midwives - N/A**

   OR

3. **Enrolled Nurses**: If you are applying for registration as an enrolled nurse, you must provide evidence that you have successfully completed at least five (5) years (full-time equivalent) continuous education taught and assessed solely in English, in a recognised country, which includes vocational qualifications in the relevant professional discipline which you are relying on to support your eligibility for registration under the National Law. The Board will only accept the successful completion of five (5) years (full-time equivalent) continuous education that is a combination of:

   a. vocational and secondary education taught and assessed in English; or

b. tertiary and vocational education taught and assessed in English; or

c. combined tertiary, secondary and vocational education taught and assessed in English; or

d. tertiary education taught and assessed in English

The last period of education must have been completed no more than five years prior to applying for registration in Australia.

OR

You achieve the required minimum scores in one of the following English language tests and meet the requirements for test results specified in this standard:

1. Cambridge (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency
2. International English Language Testing System (Academic) (IELTS)
3. Occupational English Test (OET)
4. Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)
5. Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test (TOEFL iBT)
6. Other English language tests approved by the National Boards from time to time and published on the Board's website with the required minimum scores. National Boards reserve the right at any time to revoke their approval of an English language test.

NOTE: We will only accept test results from:

i. one test sitting, or

ii. a maximum of two test sittings in a 12-month period

and only if the requirements for test results, such as when the test must be taken, type/modality of test and the required minimum scores, specified in this standard are met as set out in this standard.

Test	Scores	Overall Score	Test results accepted from - one test sitting, or - a maximum of two test sittings in a 12-month period only if:
Cambridge C1 Advanced **(Paper and computer at test centre only)**	Listening: 175 Reading: 179 Writing: 180 Speaking: 194	Overall: 178	• you are tested in all four components in each sitting • you achieve the required minimum scores in each component for listening, reading, writing and speaking across the two sittings, and • when using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below: - 168 for listening - 168 for reading - 180 for writing, and - 187 for speaking.
Cambridge C2 Proficiency **(Paper and computer at test centre only)**	Listening: 185 Reading: 185 Writing: 176 Speaking: 185	Overall: 185	• you are tested in all four components in each sitting • you achieve a minimum score of 185 in each component for listening, reading and speaking and a minimum score of 176 for writing across the two sittings, and • when using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below 176

Table continued on next page

Test	Scores	Overall Score	Test results accepted from - one test sitting, or - a maximum of two test sittings in a 12-month period only if:
IELTS IELTS Academic **(Academic paper and computer at test centre only)**	Listening: 7 Reading: 7 Writing: 6.5 Speaking: 7	Overall: 7	• you achieve a minimum overall score of 7 in each sitting, and • you achieve a minimum score of 7 in each component for listening, reading and speaking and a minimum score of 6.5 for writing across the two sittings, and • when using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below 6.5.
OET **(On paper or computer based in testing centre)** **(Any profession-specific OET test can be accepted)**	Listening: 350 Reading: 360 Writing: 350 Speaking: 360	N/A	• you are tested in all four components in each sitting, and • you achieve the required minimum scores in each component for listening, reading, writing and speaking, and • when using two test sittings no score in any component of the test(s) for either test sitting is below: - 320 for listening - 340 for reading - 350 for writing, and - 350 for speaking.
PTE Academic	Listening: 58 Reading: 59 Writing: 60 Speaking: 76	Overall: 63	• a minimum overall score of 63 is achieved in each sitting, and • you achieve the required minimum scores in each of the communicative skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking across the two sittings, and • when using two test sittings no score in any of the communicative skills for either test sitting is below: - 53 for listening - 54 for reading - 60 for writing, and - 66 for speaking.
TOEFL iBT	Listening: 22 Reading: 22 Writing: 23 Speaking: 24	Overall: 91	• a minimum total score of 91 is achieved in each sitting, and • you achieve the required minimum scores for listening, reading, writing and or speaking across the two sittings, and • when using two test sittings no score in any of the test sitting sections is below: - 19 for listening - 19 for reading - 23 for writing, and - 22 for speaking.

* Recognised country means one of the following countries or territories:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Anguilla
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Grenada
- Guernsey
- Guyana
- Isle of Man
- Jamaica
- Jersey
- Malta
- New Zealand
- Republic of Ireland
- Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- US Virgin Islands.

Entry requirement information from:

1. ANMAC Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards (2017).

2. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Registration Standard: English Language Skills (2025)

Course Requirements

In addition to the entry requirements, you'll need to meet the following course requirements:

Attend professional work placements

- 11 weeks in total, achieving a minimum of 400 hours
- Full time/shift work (shifts will be between 7am to 11.30pm) Monday-Friday
  May be in metropolitan, rural or remote areas of Tasmania
- You may be required to travel outside of your regional area to attend placement
- You may need a driver's licence as it's your responsibility to get to your placement.

Attend a TasTAFE campus in either Clarence (Hobart), Devonport or Alanvale (Launceston)

- 2-year pathway – 1 day a week
- 18-month pathway – 1 day per week, plus 6 simulation blocks.

Follow the uniform standards

- You need to purchase and wear TasTAFE scrubs for simulation learning days on campus and placement.

Can commit sufficient time to study regularly on a weekly basis

- 2-year pathway – minimum 20 hours a week
- 18-month pathway – minimum 30 hours a week.

Cost

Course fees

- Course fees and information about VET Student Loans can be found at the TasTAFE website.

Uniform

- TasTAFE scrubs cost approximately $90.

Placement requirements

- Costs associated with placements for immunisations, national police checks and Working with Vulnerable People cards are the responsibility of students.
- Travel and accommodation may be required for placements; costs relating to this are the responsibility of students.

Information sessions

TasTAFE hosts INFO WEEKS in May and October each year. Details on how to register can be found at the TasTAFE website.

Applications open the week after INFO WEEK.

Recognition of prior learning

TasTAFE can assess your skills and knowledge based on your previous education, work history or life experience – which may help you to gain your qualification faster.

More information on the recognition process is available at our website. Some units in this course are not available for recognition and are listed on the Diploma of Nursing page on our website.

Credit transfer

If you've completed any vocational education and training in the past, you may be eligible to receive a credit transfer for specific units.

For more information visit our website.

Assessment Methods

We use many assessment approaches to evaluate competence in the essential knowledge, skills and behaviours for enrolled nurse practice. Assessment in Diploma off Nursing is categorised into two groups: knowledge and performance:

Knowledge assessments include:

Quizzes, case studies, research tasks, case analysis, tests and online activities.

Performance assessments include:

Assessment occurs through simulation and from evidence collected when on placement.

Placement

Work placement is required for the Diploma of Nursing. A minimum of 400 hours of workplace experience must be achieved to successfully complete the qualification.

TasTAFE is responsible for arranging your placement, which could be located anywhere within Tasmania. Placement is scheduled between Monday to Friday, across morning and afternoon shifts (7am - 11.30pm) and excludes weekends, night shifts and public holidays.

You're required to organise travel to and from placement, and accommodation if applicable.

You'll participate in 3 work placements which provide opportunities for experiential learning.

- **First placement**: 2 weeks in a community, mental health, or primary health setting.
- **Second placement**: 3 weeks in residential aged care.
- **Third placement**: 6 weeks in acute care.

At least 6 weeks before starting placement, students must:

1. Provide evidence of meeting the requirements relating to the infectious diseases specified in the Department of Health: Australian Immunisation Handbook. Vaccination for people at occupational risk and comply with the requirements.
2. Submit a current COVID-19 vaccination.
3. Submit Working with Vulnerable People card.
4. Submit national police check (no older than 12 months at the time of placement).

You're not able to start placement until you provide this evidence. You're responsible for any costs associated with meeting the evidence requirements.

Diploma of Nursing (HLT54121) Informed Choices and Inherent Requirements

To successfully complete the Diploma of Nursing and work safely as an Enrolled Nurse, students must be able to meet the inherent requirements of the course. These reflect the minimum abilities needed for learning, clinical placement, and professional practice in Australian health care settings. The following information is designed to assist you in making an informed decision about your career choice.

For more information see Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Professional standards (nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au).

What does this mean for you?

Nursing is a rewarding but demanding profession. Students must be prepared to demonstrate the following throughout the course and during clinical placement, please read through this section and consider if you can meet the below criteria:

Legal, Ethical & Professional Behaviour

- Display qualities such as reliability, punctuality, dependability and present a professional appearance.
- Maintain compliance with Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP), immunisation status and Police Check requirements (as per entry requirements).
- Comply with NMBA social media Guidelines: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Social media: How to meet your obligations under the National Law (nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au).
- Comply with privacy & confidentiality policies of TasTAFE and in health care settings.

Behavioural stability and mental health

- Able to work under pressure and function effectively in stressful situations.
- Be receptive to and respond appropriately to constructive feedback.
- Able to control emotions and reactions and withhold personal opinions.
- Able to tolerate close proximity with people (including physical contact and being alone with other learners/supervisor/clients as appropriate).
- Willingness to care/work with people regardless of social and cultural backgrounds, or gender, age, culture, sexuality or religion.

Communication

- Participate in group discussions, learning activities and simulation.
- Follow instructions from teaching staff, placement facilitators, and staff in the health care environment.
- Complete written assessments, such as essays and case studies, to AQF level 5.
- Respond appropriately to patients by using open body language, eye contact, facial expressions.
- Recognise and respond appropriately to non -verbal cues in the health environment – including client behaviours indicating pain, discomfort, fear, and distress (this can be in the form of a grunt or laboured breathing).
- Adapt and facilitate communication to suit the sensory requirements of clients (hearing impaired, visually impaired, speech impaired).
- Complete patient health care records and reports in a clear, concise, accurate and timely manner that meets professional and legal standards.
- Awareness to notice changes in people's health conditions and the environment and provide a speedy reaction and response.
- Understand other people's perspectives/opinions and respect their choices.

Health Informatics and Health Technology

- Operational knowledge of computers/smart devices, including capacity to use industry specific tools, software and equipment.
- Use information technology to support communication (e.g. computer for reports, email and documents).
- Able to use useful key words when searching the internet.
- Able to strengthen a password and update when prompted.
- Able to participate in online group activities such as Kahoots! and Padlet.
- Ability to reply, reply all and forward emails

appropriately.

- Able to navigate a Learning Management System (LMS).

Cognition

- Ability to read, write, understand and apply information and documents (e.g. reports, charts, and clinical documentation, workplace instructions, policies and procedures).
- Able to use judgement/basic problem -solving skills e.g. to respond to immediate safety risks.
- Awareness to notice changes in people's behaviour, ability and the environment and provide a speedy reaction and response.
- Competent and accurate numeracy skills to perform basic mathematical functions without the use of a calculator. Math is required for medication calculations includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, percentages, metric conversion, and ratios.
- Critical thinking ability.
- Time management skills including prioritising tasks.
- Understand other people's perspectives/opinions and respect their choices.

Sensory Abilities

Visual:

- Accurately draw up medication to administer to patients.
- Adequate vision to read very small print (e.g. measurements along a syringe, medication container labels, expiry dates).
- Perform documentation and rapidly review patient charts and medical records to determine care.
- Observing patient health care status and adjusting care to suit individual requirements.

Hearing:

- Accurately take a blood pressure measurement by auscultation.
- Respond to care request by hearing call bell or calls for help.
- Able to respond appropriately to machine alarms – e.g. IV pumps, instructions in a timely and effective manner.
- Able to detect changes in respiration quality and rate through sound.
- Sufficient auditory and tactile ability is necessary to monitor, assess and manage individual's health needs consistently and accurately.
- Verbal handover of patient care is an important part of a normal working day in the life of a health care professional, which is taught and practiced at TasTAFE.
- Sounds may be coming from behind and around you, requiring a rapid response to call for medical help.
- Wearing of masks and face shield may be a requirement at TasTAFE in the Simulated Learning Environment, which replicates the real work environment.

Tactile:

- Detect changes in observations e.g. palpate a pulse.
- Conduct a physical assessment and detect any anatomical abnormalities – lumps, changes to abdominal tension.
- Detect discreet changes in patient surface temperature and detect changes in circulation status – e.g. Cool and clammy or hot skin.
- Provide therapeutic touch to comfort a patient.

Strength and Mobility

Gross Motor:

- Required movements include bending, carrying, pushing, pulling, standing, twisting, squatting, kneeling.
- Assist with moving or positioning clients.
- Moving equipment in confined spaces.
- Ability to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - CPR on a manikin located at ground level.

Fine Motor:

- Required movements include grasping, pressing, pushing, turning, squeezing, and manipulating various objects and individuals.
- Pump up a blood pressure cuff, administering an injection, applying bandages.
- Writing assessments.

- Performing physical assessments & other client assessment skills.

Sustainable Performance

- Maintain a consistent level of physical energy to complete specific tasks in a timely manner within expected timeframes during full-time shift work.
- Ability to perform repetitive activities with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately.
- The capacity to maintain consistency and quality of performance throughout full-time shift work.

Fitness to practice

If you have an impairment or health issue that may place the public at substantial risk of harm, TasTAFE is obligated to report this to AHPRA, the organisation that regulates Australia's registered health practitioners.

If you have, or may have, any impairment that may affect your capacity to undertake work placement, you'll be required to provide evidence from a qualified medical professional to pronounce you fit to undertake placement or to outline any restrictions before placement being arranged.

This also applies to practical components of the course in the simulated work environment.

Find out more about the Diploma of Nursing by scanning the QR code below

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www.tastafe.tas.edu.au

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DISCLAIMER: The information contained in the publication is correct at the time of publication (October 2026)
Every effort has been made to ensure details are correct and accurate, however TasTAFE reserves the right to change information without notice.