



HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing

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 18-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 tutorials 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:

- 2 days a week virtual tutorials via Zoom (2 x 1-hour tutorials each day and 1 x 1 hour study support session)
- 24 hours a week for structured and directed course content in Canvas
- 5-10 consecutive weekday attendance on campus for simulation blocks (as per timetable) totalling 12 weeks over the course

Both attendance modes require 3 work placements:

- 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

TasTAFE arranges placement and placement could be anywhere in Tasmania. You will work full time in shifts scheduled between Monday to Friday, across morning and afternoon (7am to 11pm), no weekends, no night shifts or public holidays.

All attendance modes may require additional sessions outside the days and times provided. For example: tutorials, skills development, assessment and information sessions.

Additional study in your own time will be required outside of the contact hours to meet competency requirements.

Study locations

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

2-year pathway

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

18-month pathway

- Alanvale (Launceston)
- Clarence (Hobart)
- Devonport (students travel to Launceston to attend simulation blocks)

Check the TasTAFE website for intake dates.

Entry requirements

All applicants will need to provide evidence of the following:

1. Your completed Informed choices: Self-assessment.
2. 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
3. The evidence of meeting the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's English language skills registration standard in one of the following ways:
 - a. If English is your primary language - **A statutory declaration** stating 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 (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America) including at least two years between years 7 and 12
 - b. Results of one of the following English language tests:
 - i. The IELTS (academic module) with a minimum overall score of 7 and a minimum score of 7 in each of the 4 components (listening, reading, writing and speaking)
 - ii. The OET with a minimum score of B in each of the 4 components (listening, reading, writing and speaking)
 - iii. The PTE Academic with a minimum overall score of 65 and a minimum score of 65 in each of the 4 communicative skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking)
 - iv. The TOEFL iBT with a minimum total score of 94 and the following minimum score in each section of the test: 24 for listening, 24 for reading, 27 for writing and 23 for speaking

4. A certified copy of a national police check, less than 3 years old

All pieces of evidence must be certified by a Commissioner for Declarations.

During the application process we will schedule a career conversation for you with one of our Teaching team to:

- Clarify the course expectations and attendance requirements.
- Clarify of the required digital and computer skills & offer any recommended support.
- Review your Informed Choices self assessment.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss your study skills & offer any recommended support.
- Allow you to ask us any questions about the programme.

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 – for 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 and information about VET Student Loans can be found at **the TasTAFE website**.

Uniform

TasTAFE scrubs cost approximately \$80.

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 June and November each year. Details on how to register can be found at **our 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 of 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:

- Simulations based on real-world scenarios. These allow you to demonstrate problem solving, time management and contingency skills and increase in complexity as you progress through your qualification
- Clinical skills. Where a clinical skill can't be embedded within a simulation it's assessed via demonstration of the skill in isolation

- Reflections. These take the form of a reflection on performance of a skill or simulation and reflection on a clinical encounter that occurred on work placement
- Episodes of practice. These allow you to document and reflect upon a clinical situation where you performed tasks under supervision
- Workplace evidence. This is a report from your workplace supervisor at the end of your placement and contributes to determining your competency

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
 - Before work placement you need to achieve the stated learning outcomes, understand the connection between theory and practice and the importance of teamwork and ethical practice.
- Second placement: 3 weeks in residential aged care
 - In this placement you'll work with and learn from a variety of allied health professionals, engaging in a collaborative manner. An understanding of cultural safety and respect must also be demonstrated on this placement as you engage with residents, family and key stakeholders.



- Third placement: 6 weeks in acute care
 - Before this placement you'll have a simulation learning block where you'll be allocated shifts to fully simulate a hospital working environment. This placement will give you the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills via episodes of practice and in various situations to confirm your ability with sufficient, credible and valid evidence.

At least 6 weeks before starting placement, you need to submit:

1. An immunisation history showing you're vaccinated for measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa), hepatitis B with positive serology, tuberculosis and influenza
2. A current COVID-19 vaccination
3. A Working with Vulnerable People card
4. A 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 informed choices checklist

The duties of an enrolled nurse can be both physically and emotionally challenging. The following information is designed to assist you in making an informed decision about your career choice. It outlines the skills and abilities needed to successfully complete the course.

To support you in making an informed choice on whether this is the appropriate course for you, please read through this section and consider if you can meet the below criteria.

Many of these criteria are required when going into a healthcare setting as a student or for on-the-job training.

For more specific information on the details and tasks relating to the nursing industry refer to the **Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) website**. For career resources to help you explore and plan your career visit the **myfuture website**.

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.

Communication

- The ability to develop and maintain relationships, trust and confidence
- The ability to communicate with a range of people from different backgrounds
- Communicate effectively in English, ability to speak clearly and audibly
- Demonstrate politeness, respect and empathy
- Ability to receive and reflect on constructive feedback
- Strong listening skills (for example, ability to hear a client with breathing difficulties and assess client breath sounds)

Self-management

- Study independently
- Ability to manage your time
- Ability to prioritise tasks
- Self-motivated
- Understand deadlines and plan to meet them
- Have a dedicated study space at home
- Feel supported by my family and friends with my study
- Ability to manage stress
- Willing to seek help using the contact information provided to me
- Ability to see what needs to be done
- Accept responsibility for accurate completion of work and seek help when required
- Ability to integrate and apply new knowledge to practice
- Ability to use basic problem-solving skills
- Time management skills

- Ability to prioritise, plan and organise my own workload
- Capacity to manage shift work (such as early, late and night shifts over a 7-day roster)
- Accept responsibility for my actions
- Concentrate for long periods of time
- Ability to deal with bodily fluids (such as vomit, blood, urine and faeces)
- Ability to deal with the physical demands of undertaking manual tasks on a consistent basis

Teamwork

- Ability to work with other people for a common outcome
- Respect for other people and their role within the work team
- Ability to accept direction and feedback
- Ability to work under pressure and function effectively in stressful situations

Learning, literacy and numeracy

- Ability to identify own strengths and weaknesses and seek assistance where necessary
- Ability and motivation to build on past knowledge and experience
- Ability to take on new information and tasks
- Ability to read complex texts and extract relevant information (for example, client care plans, charts, procedures, reports)
- Ability to record observations, complete forms, documents, reports, taking messages
- Ability to spell with reasonable accuracy with legible handwriting
- Perform basic mathematical functions (for example, calculations; measurements, and interpret and document in charts, tables and graphs)

Problem-solving and observational skills

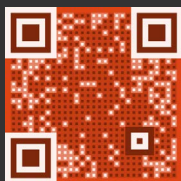
- Ability to identify potential problems and respond appropriately
- Ability to ask questions and seek clarification when necessary
- Attention to detail (for example, ability to examine and assess clients, observe changes in skin and wounds, read and interpret handwritten charts)

Use of technology

- Ability to learn and adapt to new technology
- Ability to access information and use digital media for study and work
- Willing to use online self-help resources such as tutorials
- Have a computer that is no more than 3 years old
- Use email to send and receive messages and attachments
- Use Microsoft Word (or equivalent) to create and format documents
- Use Microsoft PowerPoint (or equivalent) to create presentations
- Use an internet browser to find a website
- Use a search engine to find information on the internet
- Access to a printer
- Knowledge of online forums, wikis and blogs to communicate
- A fast, reliable internet connection
- A headset and microphone to participate in a virtual classroom
- Ability to save a Word document as a PDF
- Ability to download files and install software
- Have an up-to-date version of Microsoft Office (or equivalent) on my computer
- How to get help with computer problems

Your skills. Your future.

Scan the below QR code for further information



1300 655 307
www.tastafe.tas.edu.au

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this publication is correct at the time of publication (October 2023).
Every effort has been made to ensure details are correct and accurate, however TasTAFE reserves the right to change information without notice.