

***Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health  
Course Outline***

# **NURS 536**

## **Advancing Nursing Practice - Trauma & Emergency**

**Course Co-ordinator:  
Alan Shaw**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Produced by the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health,  
81 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn, Wellington 6021.

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# **STAFF TEACHING IN THIS COURSE**

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## **STUDENT ADMINISTRATOR**

Abbey McDonald

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# CONTACT DETAILS

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## POSTAL ADDRESS

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health  
Victoria University of Wellington  
P O Box 600  
Wellington 6140

## PHYSICAL ADDRESS

The Fieldhouse Centre  
Victoria University of Wellington  
81 & 83 Fairlie Terrace  
Kelburn  
Wellington 6021

Phone: (04) 463-5363 or  
0800 108-005 Freephone Graduate School Administration

Fax: (04) 463-5442

Email: [nmh@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nmh@vuw.ac.nz)

Web site: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nmh>

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

## GRADUATE SCHOOL DATES

The Graduate School office will be open on Wednesday 5 January 2009 and close on Tuesday 22 December 2009.

In keeping with the practice of other years, academic staff will not be available on Fridays, except for the times they are involved in Schools.

# **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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Emergency nursing encompasses the care of individuals, families, and whanau from a range of diverse population groups, presenting with a spectrum of health and illness, from wellbeing to near death, from acute to chronic. These people come with expectations that the Emergency Department will provide care, comfort and expert knowledge often at times of vulnerability. Many lack knowledge of both health care and health care systems and look to staff to provide these. Emergency Nurses therefore must be able to meet the numerous challenges and opportunities that arise within this ever changing environment. This course provides the student with the ability to critically evaluate both the care they provide and the context in which that care is given, by using research and evidence-based practice and the development of critical thinking skills.

# **COURSE AIMS**

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This course aims to support students to advance their practice through the integration of theory, research, and clinical knowledge to promote effective outcomes for patients presenting with health needs in the emergency care environment. The course is designed to extend the emergency nurse's knowledge in the care of patients presenting with complex needs and to develop appropriate skills to advance nursing practice.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

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On completion of the course students will demonstrate competencies congruent with those outlined by the Nursing Council of New Zealand<sup>1</sup> for advanced nursing practice. These include but are not exclusive to:

- Integrates theory, research and clinical knowledge in the management of patients presenting to the emergency care environment (4.1.2.4 / 4.1.2.5).
- Engages in the triage process to establish priorities in patient management and care (4.2.1)
- Develops skills necessary to provide advanced nursing care to patients with complex needs, modelling expert skills within the clinical practice area (4.2.2).
- Applies critical reasoning in practice to ensure an appropriate nursing response in given emergency situations (4.2.2).
- Demonstrates advanced assessment skills in the management of critically ill and/or injured patients (4.2.1 / 4.2.2).
- Displays effective communication skills recognising limits to own practice and consults appropriately (4.2.2).
- Demonstrates culturally and ethically safe practice (4.2.2).
- Takes a leadership role in complex emergency situations (4.2.3).
- Develops skills in mentoring/coaching and teaching activities (4.2.3).
- Defines own practice in health promotion, maintenance, and restoration in the context of emergency nursing (4.2.4).
- Evaluates health outcomes for patients in the emergency care setting, exploring these in relationship to international trends and evidence-based practice to influence health/socio-economic policies and nursing practice (4.2.4 / 4.2.5).
- Contributes to change processes to improve quality and manage risk for patients in the emergency care setting (4.2.4).
- Utilises research findings to determine evidence-based practice (4.2.5).
- Reflects and critiques own practice to extend nursing knowledge and advance practice skills in the delivery of emergency nursing care (4.2.1 / 4.2.5).

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<sup>1</sup> Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2001). *Framework for post-registration nursing education*. Wellington: Author.  
<http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/postregnursing.pdf>  
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# COURSE CONTENT

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The courses NURS 512 and NURS 536 integrate to award a *Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing (Trauma and Emergency)*. The Schools for these two courses are combined and students are required to attend each of the three Schools. The Schools involve sessions from a range of experienced nurses and health professionals from education settings and specialty areas relevant to the course. The course incorporates national and international experts in their field.

## RECOMMENDED READING/TEXT

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Connor, M. (2004). *Courage and complexity in chronic illness: Reflective practice in nursing*. Wellington: Daphne Brasell Associates Press and Whitireia Publishing.

Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2008). *Competencies for Nurse Practitioners*.  
[NCNZ Nurse Practitioner Competencies](#)

Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2004). *Continuing Competence framework (competence-based practicing certificates)*. From [www.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz)

Nursing Council of New Zealand (2004). *Guidelines for Cultural Safety in Nursing and Education*. Author: Wellington.

Taylor, B. (2000). *Reflective practice. A guide for nurses and midwives*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin.

# RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

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- [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz). This is an excellent drug information resource.
- [www.findarticles.com](http://www.findarticles.com). This is a useful search engine, free of charge.
- The College of Emergency Nurses New Zealand NZNO has a website with links to many websites related to emergency nursing, this is a very useful site:  
[www.emergencynurse.co.nz](http://www.emergencynurse.co.nz)
- The Ministry of Health ([www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz)) has on line publications relevant to emergency nursing.
- The Health and Disability Commissioner website contains summaries of cases investigated: [www.hdc.org.nz](http://www.hdc.org.nz)
- NZ health promotion information: [www.health.ed.govt.nz](http://www.health.ed.govt.nz)
- NZ Health Technology Assessment Reports: useful literature reviews:  
[www.nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz](http://www.nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz)
- Evidenced- based nursing/medicine:  
[www.joannabriggs.edu.au](http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au)  
[www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)  
[www.bestbets.org](http://www.bestbets.org): a UK emergency medicine website  
[www.emedicine.com](http://www.emedicine.com)

Cardiology: [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

World Health Organisation: [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)

Office for the Commissioner of Children: [www.occ.org.nz](http://www.occ.org.nz)

Paediatrics: [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

*See your course Blackboard site for other useful websites*

# ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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At all times students must act within the boundaries of professional Codes of Conduct, relevant legislative frameworks and the governance, rules and contracts of their employing organisation. Further information with regard to student's ethical responsibilities and relevant templates can be accessed on the Blackboard site or will be provided in class if required.



# BLACKBOARD INFORMATION

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Students enrolling for this course will need access to the VUW flexible learning system (Blackboard) via the Internet.

Blackboard is an online environment that supports teaching and learning at Victoria by making course information, materials and learning activities available online via the internet. Blackboard provides web-based access to course content, assessment, communication and collaboration tools. Instructions for using this will be provided as part of timetable during the 1<sup>st</sup> School. Students will need to be able to access the Internet on a regular basis.

The following software, which is necessary for using material on Blackboard, is freely available to download from the internet if you don't already have it:

- Netscape Communicator v 4.78 or higher (v. 7.1 recommended) OR
- Microsoft Internet Explorer v. 5.2.x or higher
- MS Windows 2000 or XP/ MacOS 9 or Mac OS X.2 or higher

Other software: Adobe Acrobat Reader - free download from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/>

Microsoft Office or Microsoft Viewers. The viewers can be downloaded free of charge from: <http://www.microsoft.com/office/000/viewers.asp>

Computer skills required:

- Internet browsing skills
- Basic word processing skills

## How to log onto Blackboard

- Open a web browser and go to [myVictoria.ac.nz](http://myVictoria.ac.nz)
- Enter your account username which you can find in your *Confirmation of Study* sheet
- It is usually made up of 6 letters of your last name and 4 letters of your first name
- Enter your password. If you have never used Victoria computer facilities your initial password is your student ID number
- Click on the Blackboard icon
- Alternatively, if you want to access Blackboard without going through the myVictoria portal, just log on at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>

## Off Campus access

Blackboard is available from any location where you can access the Internet. This may be your home, work or an Internet café.

**Problems with access?** Contact ITS service desk **04 463 5050**

## **WORKLOAD**

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30 point courses in the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health have an average workload of twelve hours per week.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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In order to successfully complete this course students are required to:

- attend all Schools - unless under special circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the Course Co-ordinator
- submit and pass all pieces of assessment
- complete presentations to your colleagues and peers in the Schools

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES**

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Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

# **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

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Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **USE OF TURNITIN**

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Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.

Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

# SCHOOL CATERING

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The Graduate School will provide tea & coffee for morning and afternoon break while students are attending Schools on site (**lunch is not provided**).

During the lunch breaks you may wish to investigate a variety of student cafes within walking distance on our campus and several cafes at Kelburn shops approximately 10 mins walk from the School.

All our students have access to the 'Treehouse' at the back of 83 Fairlie Tce while here at Schools where you may wish to use appliances (toaster, microwave & oven).

# COURSE TIMETABLE

WEEK STARTING Monday	DATES	EVENT	ACTION
2 February	6 February	Waitangi Day	
9 February			
16 February			
23 February			
2 March			
9 March			
16 March	<b>17 &amp; 18 March</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> School</b>	<b>NURS 536</b>
23 March			
30 March			
6 April	10 April	Easter Friday	
13 April	13 April	Easter Monday	
	14 April	VUW Holiday	
20 April	<b>24 April</b> 25 April	ANZAC Day	<b>Assignment 1 due</b>
27 April			
4 May			
11 May			
18 May			
25 May			
1 June	1 June	Queens Birthday	
8 June			
15 June			
22 June			
29 June			
6 July			
13 July			
20 July	<b>20 &amp; 21 July</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> School</b>	<b>NURS 536</b>
27 July			
3 August			
10 August			
17 August	<b>14 August</b>		<b>Assignment 2 due</b>
24 August			
31 August	<b>31 August &amp; 1 September</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> School</b>	<b>NURS 536</b>
7 September			
14 September			
21 September			
28 September			
5 October			
12 October			
19 October			
26 October	26 October	Labour Weekend	

# **SCHOOL TIMETABLE**

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Timetables will be forwarded prior to the Schools commencing.

Venues utilised during programme:

Graduate School of Nursing and Midwifery, 83 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn

## **1<sup>ST</sup> SCHOOL**

Dates: Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 March 2009

Times: 9am - 5pm

Venue: Room (TBC), 83 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn, Wellington

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## **2<sup>ND</sup> SCHOOL**

Dates: Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 July 2009

Times: 9am - 5pm

Venue: Room (TBC), 83 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn, Wellington

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## **3<sup>RD</sup> SCHOOL**

Dates: Monday 31 August & Tuesday 1 September 2009

Times: 9am - 5pm

Venue: Room (TBC), 83 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn, Wellington

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# ASSIGNMENTS

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Assignment information including grade descriptions, the procedures for submitting assignments and referencing information is available on the Graduate School's Website.

**All assignments for NURS 536 are to be submitted electronically via Blackboard and this will be discussed further during the 1<sup>st</sup> School.**

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health has set a number of assessment tasks and due dates to best meet the outcomes of the course. In keeping with the Graduate School's stated philosophy that no assessment work shall serve the Graduate School alone, it is possible to negotiate alternative assessments and schedule. This should be undertaken in consultation with the course co-ordinator.

## **Graduate School guidelines for submission and return of student assignments:**

1. All assignments are to be received at the GSNMH by the nominated due date.
  - 1.1 An extension to the due date may be given in exceptional circumstances.
  - 1.2 An application for an extension must be made in writing to Course Co-ordinators at least 24 hours before the due date. Email application is acceptable.
  - 1.3 Course Co-ordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks.
  - 1.4 Any extension requested for longer than 2 weeks must be made in writing to the course co-ordinator **and** the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or in her absence the Head of School. Email application is acceptable. The decision will be made by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or in her absence the Head of School.
  - 1.5 All extensions are to be notified by the Course co-ordinator and the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or in her absence the Head of School to the Student Administrator for recording.
2. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will normally be returned with feedback within four weeks of the due date. Students who do not submit assignments within this timeframe may be subject to delays in their assignment being returned and may not receive comprehensive feedback.
3. Assignments without an approved extension which remain outstanding for up to two weeks beyond the due date will be marked, but cannot attract a grade higher than a 'C' (pass) grade.
4. Assignments without an approved extension that remain outstanding beyond two weeks from the due date will attract an 'E' (fail) grade. These assignments will not be marked and will not be able to be resubmitted for grading.

Students must submit and pass all pieces of assessment to satisfactorily complete the course.

# ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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At all times students must act within the boundaries of professional Codes of Conduct, relevant legislative frameworks and the governance, rules and contracts of their employing organisation. Further information with regard to student's ethical responsibilities and relevant templates can be accessed on the Blackboard site or will be provided in class if required.

## ASSIGNMENT WRITING: GUIDELINES FOR FORMAT AND PRESENTATION

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The Graduate School recommends the use of APA referencing for all assignments and information on APA referencing can be found by searching online:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: 5th ed. (2001).

Students can also request a copy of the Referencing the APA Style A Brief Guide (Brochure) from Student Learning Support Services or view on:

[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st\\_Services/slss/studyhub/reference/APA.pdf](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_Services/slss/studyhub/reference/APA.pdf)

- Assignments should be concise and relevant; when a word limit applies students should avoid exceeding it. Keep within 10% of the stated limit, e.g. 3000 words means 2750 - 3300. Word count includes references
- Font size 12, Times New Roman or Arial only
- Double or 1.5 line spacing. Justify all text
- 0.5-1.0 cm margin on the left side for marker's comments.
- All pages should have a footer which includes the following:
  - Course number, assignment number and student ID number (left aligned), e.g. *NURS 512, Assignment 2, 300011122*
  - Page number (right aligned)
- Include a title page and an assignment cover sheet on top.
- Appendices: These are additional materials related to the text but not suitable for inclusion because of its length or format (e.g. policy documents, etc). These are not marked or counted in the word limit, but should be clearly referred to as appropriate within the main text (e.g. see Appendix A).
- Ensure you keep a copy of your assignment until it is returned from being marked.



# CONFERENCE & SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

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Students of the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health are encouraged to present their work at professional conferences and as papers for publication. Students should discuss this with the course co-ordinator in the first instance. Dissemination of findings from academic work is a very important part of graduate education and assists clinical teams and professional groups to access up-to-date and new knowledge. Course co-ordinators will provide academic guidance in relation to the targeted activities, and also in relation to the proper academic processes of authorship and acknowledgement.

For all conference, professional and workplace presentations our VUW Power Point template should be used. You are also required to use this template for all school presentations as part of your assignment requirements. This template is available and can be accessed by those students using Blackboard or you can email: [abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) for a copy of the template to be sent to you.

As a general rule, presentations and papers should cite yourselves as post-graduate students, and name the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health as the organisation. In keeping with academic conventions course co-ordinators and teaching associates who help with the ideas and preparation of the paper/presentation should be directly acknowledged or named as co-authors.

# REPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

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At the end of each year the Graduate School reports to the University details of student special achievements (such as awards, grants, presentations, and publications).

You are required to complete and submit this form [Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria](#) (attached to back of outline) with your final assignment for this course.

If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact [Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) to request a copy.

# ASSIGNMENT NUMBER ONE

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Assignment Name: The Health Needs of a Particular Patient Population

Due Date: 24 April 2009

Length: 3500 words

This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade.

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This assignment requires exploration of the health needs and characteristics of a particular population group who present to the emergency department. It provides the opportunity to apply advanced nursing knowledge and expertise, and examine evidence based care to improve the health outcomes for a certain group of patients.

Select a population group that presents to the emergency department with actual or potential health needs (eg, DKA, paranoia, trauma in the elderly). Use a case study to illustrate your discussion of the pathophysiology of the condition and management strategies associated with this illness/injury. Examine current literature to identify treatment trends and recommended best practice with regards to meeting the health needs of this group of patients.

Please submit this assignment electronically via Blackboard.

# ASSIGNMENT NUMBER TWO

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Assignment Name: Influencing Health Policies and Nursing Practice

Due Date: 14 August 2009

Length: 3500 words

This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade

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Nursing practice is often guided by policy originating from departmental up to international level. As nurses we are expected to adhere to policies that for many reasons we may feel are unsuitable for practice. This assignment requires the student to critique a current health policy or document that has an effect on emergency nursing and the delivery of emergency services to the community.

The policy/document can be at:

- Government level or local Service
  - Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights
- National Body level
  - Guidelines for Implementation of the Australasian Triage Scale in Emergency Departments (ACEM, 2000)
- District Health Board level
  - Consent or Restraint Policy
- Local Service level
  - Naso-gastric feeding

**Your critique should include:**

- A brief overview of the policy/document, its purpose, and implications for practice in the ED setting
- A review of current literature as relevant to the intent of the policy/document
- Exploration of the benefits and/or issues related to the policy/document
- Discussion in support of the recommendations for change to the policy/document

Please submit the policy/document you have critiqued as an appendix to your written work via Blackboard.

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH**  
**Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria**

At the end of each year the Graduate School reports to the University details of student special achievements (such as awards, grants, presentations, and publications). Please complete this form and **submit with your final assignment for the course**. If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact [Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) to request a copy.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Industry sponsorship**

Name of Sponsor	Notes in relation to the conditions of sponsorship	Value	Year
eg, C&C DHB	50% Student fees paid on successful completion of the course of study	\$	2008

**Special awards, Prizes & Scholarships**

Name of Award/ Prize/ Scholarship	Source/Provider	Notes in relation to the prize/award/scholarship	Value/ Form	Year
eg 'Best clinical innovation'	Mental Health College of Nurses	A project that I developed while doing my practicum course resulted in our clinical team changing the way in which we met with and involved families in patient care	\$500 Award Certificate	2008

**Professional presentations / Seminars /Conferences**

If you gave any professional presentations, seminars or conference papers during the year please provide the details below use APA style for referencing these

*Example:* Student, A. (2008). New models of nursing documentation and their relevance to orthopaedic practice. Paper presented at the Orthopaedic Nurses study day 'Stepping towards the future' held in Wellington, 14 August 2008.

**Publications (Book reviews, editorials, journal articles, chapters, monographs, books etc)**

*Example:* Student, A & Teacher, B. (2008). Mental Health Consumers speak about their Health Education Needs. *Contemporary Nurse*, 5(4), 114-126.

**Other Special Achievements**

If you have had any other special achievements during the year please provide the details.

**Attach and submit with your final assignment thank you**