



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH

HLTH 505: SPECIALIST PRACTICE: Critical Care

30 POINTS
TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 2 October 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

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SECTION 1: OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Class times and locations

1st School

Dates: Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 July 2015
Times: 0830 - 1630 daily (Please check timetable on Blackboard for exact times)
Venue: CS802, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

2nd School

Dates: Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September 2015
Times: 0830 – 1630 daily (Please check timetable on Blackboard for exact times)
Venue: CS802, Level 8, Clinical Services Building (CSB), Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

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.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator & Contact Details

Professor Mo Coombs
Ph: 04 463 5180
Email: mo.coombs@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: by appointment

Postgraduate Administrator

Ph: 04 463 5363
Email: nmh@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours

The Graduate School office will be open Monday 5 January 2015 and close on Friday 18 December 2015 from 9.00am – 4.00pm weekdays.

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. Please contact the course coordinator directly either by telephone or email should you wish to make an appointment or discuss course related issues.

Postal Address

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health
Victoria University of Wellington
P O Box 7625
Newtown
Wellington 6242

Physical Address

Level 7, Clinical Services Block (CSB)
Wellington Regional Hospital
Riddiford St, Newtown
Wellington 6021

Communication of additional information

All course information and information on changes that occur during the course will be conveyed to students via Blackboard or student Victoria University of Wellington email.

SECTION 2: COURSE INFORMATION

Prescription

This course will develop knowledge of specialist practice at an advanced level, in the context of international developments in patient care. Innovations in practice and challenges facing specific specialty practice areas are the key content areas. Students must be in direct patient contact.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to demonstrate advancing practice competencies congruent to those outlined by the Nursing Council of New Zealand for Nurse Practitioners. Throughout the course participants will interact in teaching and learning in order to:

1. Demonstrate mastery of key fields of knowledge underpinning the delivery of contemporary critical care practice
2. Critique current critical care therapies and interventions cognisant of local, national and international influencers
3. Critically analyse critical care research, policy and practice related to the critical care speciality drawing on local, national and international evidence
4. Identify and explore challenges and innovations related to critical care practice inherent in specialty area
5. Evaluate current evidence base to make recommendations for future practice and service change
6. Demonstrate reflection and reflexivity within specialty practice context

Teaching format

There will be four School days held in Wellington which will be delivered in two blocks of two days over the trimester. The days will be a mix of lectures, tutorials, small group activities and simulation. A distance component supported by Blackboard forms part of the course and supports the development of the content delivered in the school. Online discussion groups are available to give students ways of continuing discussion about course material outside of the classroom. Time is set aside at each school for additional review of topics covered in the course at the request of students.

Extra activities and readings will be made available on Blackboard from time to time.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Attend all Schools unless under circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the course coordinator.
2. Achieve at least 35% in each piece of assessment, in order to demonstrate the achievement of all of the CLOs of the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

As a guide each 30-point course at the Graduate School requires students to allocate approximately 10 hours per point for self-directed study, research, assessments and attendance at Schools. Consequently 300 hours should be spread evenly over the 12 week trimester, break, study week and exam period.

This course comprises approximately 32 hours of course contact time for lectures, group work and on-campus activities. The amount of time you should notionally assign to the completion for each of the assignments is as follows:

1. Assignment Number One: Evidence base case study (45%): 124 hours

2. Assignment Number Two: Review of a critical care service initiative (55%): 145 hours

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Evidence based case study (4000 words)	45	1,2,3,4	10 August 2015
2	Review of a critical care service initiative (4500 words)	55	1,2,3,5	2 October 2015

Approval is required in writing from the course coordinator if you wish to use work you have submitted from a previous course or have written for your organisation. Marking criteria for each assessment will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignment Number One

Assignment Name: **Evidence based case study**

Due Date: 5pm Monday 10 August 2015

Word limit: 4000 words

This assignment is worth 45% of your final grade.

The assignment provides opportunity to apply advanced nursing knowledge and expertise through critical review of the evidence base underpinning care for a particular critical care population. Current approaches to patient management will be critiqued and evaluated through review of local clinical practices and comparison against national/international evidence.

This assignment assesses the following course learning objectives:

- Demonstrate mastery of key fields of knowledge underpinning the delivery of contemporary critical care practice
- Critique current critical care therapies and interventions cognisant of local, national and international influencers
- Critically analyse critical care research, policy and practice related to the critical care speciality drawing on local, national and international evidence
- Identify and explore challenges and innovations related to critical care practice inherent in specialty area

ASSIGNMENT OUTLINE:

Select a specific patient group (e.g. trauma, cardiac, post-surgical) that is admitted to your critical care area and that you have a particular interest in. Using your own experiences in relation to a particular 'case' from this population, critically reflect on the clinical care currently given and identify areas where there is need to evaluate or change current practice. If you are unsure that your proposed patient group is appropriate, please discuss this with the course coordinator.

Within the assignment you will need to address the following areas:

- Commence your assignment with a short case study (maximum 500 words) from your practice to illustrate the particular group you have selected. This case will inform your discussion during the rest of the assignment
- Provide a rationale for the patient group selected and the area you are evaluating

- Briefly describe the current management strategies (medical and nursing) of this area in your work environment
- Conduct an in-depth examination and critique of the national and international literature to identify current treatment trends and recommended best practice with regards to meeting the health needs of this group of patients
- Identify **one** patient management strategy from the literature that could be utilised (or better utilised) by your clinical area and conclude your assignment outlining the relevance and feasibility of implementing this strategy.

This assignment meets learning objectives: 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Assignment Number Two

Assignment Name: **Review of a critical care service initiative**

Due Date: 5pm Friday 2 October 2015

Word limit: 4500

This assignment is worth 55% of your final grade.

This assignment is designed to provide opportunities for students to undertake an in-depth exploration of current service issues challenging critical care at a local, national, and international level. Areas explored in this assignment can include: service delivery issues, organisational changes impacting on critical care, evolving health care demographics, novel national policies, professional development challenges or new foci for research initiatives.

This assignment assesses the following course learning objectives:

- Demonstrate mastery of key fields of knowledge underpinning the delivery of contemporary critical care practice
- Critically analyse critical care research, policy and practice related to the critical care speciality drawing on local, national and international evidence
- Identify and explore challenges and innovations related to critical care practice inherent in the specialty area
- Evaluate current evidence base to make recommendations for future practice and service change

ASSIGNMENT OUTLINE:

Students will identify an area of critical care interest, identify current models and approaches, review sources of evidence and policy, and make recommendations pertinent to the New Zealand critical care context.

Within the assignment you will need to address the following areas:

- Commence your assignment with a short introduction, drawing on your practice experience to illustrate the particular service issue you have selected. This will inform your discussion during the rest of the assignment
- Provide a rationale for the service issue selected and the reason why you are evaluating it
- Briefly describe the current service management strategies of this area in your work environment
- Conduct an in-depth examination and critique of the national and international literature, including evidence based practice and policy, to identify current service management models and recommended best practice with regards to addressing service needs in this area
- Identify one service strategy from the literature that could be utilised (or better utilised) by your clinical area and conclude your assignment outlining the relevance and feasibility of implementing this strategy

This assignment meets learning objectives: 1, 2, 3 & 5.

Submission and return of work

For submission details, please see individual assessment items. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will normally be returned with feedback within three weeks of the due date.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension to a deadline will only be considered where there are extenuating circumstances. An application for an extension must be made by you in writing/e-mail to the course coordinator at least 24 hours before the due date. When communicating your request you must include the following information:

- name, student number and contact details
- course code
- date of submission and request date for new submission
- reason for extension request.

Upon receipt of your request, course coordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks. Any further request for an extension may require Head of School approval.

Penalties

Late assignments or assignments with extensions may be subject to delays in marking and may not receive comprehensive feedback.

A penalty will be incurred for late submission of work **where no prior arrangement** has been made as follows:

- Work submitted up to 7 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 2 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a B-.
- Work submitted 8-14 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 4 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a C.
- Work submitted more than 15 days late without an extension will not be marked and will receive an 'E' (fail) grade.

Other marking penalties

Assignments may also be penalised for poor presentation and for exceeding the word limit.

SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Set text

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended reading

Links to articles and recommended websites will be made available on Blackboard.

Student feedback

Feedback from the previous cohort in 2013 was generally positive about HLTH 505. To increase the quality of this course, there has been an increase in content on the management of the critically ill patient utilising clinical experts.

Students will be given the opportunity to provide immediate feedback on the course during the class days.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Blackboard Information

Students enrolling for this course will need access to the Victoria 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 1st 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 www.adobe.com/products/acrobat

Students are encouraged to use Endnote to manage the research material they use and cite. Endnote can be obtained at <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/guides/endnote.html>

Microsoft Office or Microsoft Viewers. The viewers can be downloaded free of charge from: 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
- 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**