

HLT131 Practice Principles for Midwifery

School: School of Health - Midwifery

2026 Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course introduces you to the discipline of midwifery. You will explore the origins and foundations of the discipline and significant milestones that have shaped the way registered professionals practice in each discipline today. You will examine the theoretical, professional, legal and ethical frameworks that underpin practice. You will participate in experiential learning related to principles of practice and how you use these in beginning practice in communication, collaboration, clinical decision making and preliminary healthcare assessment.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online asynchronous learning and teaching recording.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial.	2hrs	Week 1	8 times
Laboratory 1 – On campus laboratory.	3hrs	Week 9	4 times

1.3. Course Topics

Professional Foundations

Historical influences locally and globally

Legislation, registration and regulation

Professional and ethical practice

[Promoting and protecting women's wellness and health outcomes](#)

Communication – Personal and social

Communication – Interpersonal and interprofessional communication

Reflective Practice Connect Program

Safe Medication administration

Infection control Standard precautions

Maternal and Neonatal observations

[Postnatal care mother](#)

[Supporting the woman to feed her baby](#)

[Care of the neonate](#)

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
1 Demonstrate a range of practices necessary for beginning clinical placement.	Empowered	3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5, 5.1, 5.4, 6.3
2 Apply professional, ethical and legal codes and standards to practice.	Ethical	2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3, 3.2, 3.3
3 Critically self-appraise practice through the use of a reflective model.	Creative and critical thinker	1, 1.4, 1.6, 3.4, 7.2, 7.3
4 Demonstrate appropriate preparation for clinical placement.	Empowered	1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 3, 3.3, 4.4, 7.3
5 Apply principles and practices of academic writing and referencing	Engaged	

* Competencies by Professional Body

1	Standard 1: Promotes health and wellbeing through evidence-based midwifery practice
1.2	The midwife accesses, analyses, and uses the best available evidence, that includes research findings, for safe, quality midwifery practice
1.4	The midwife undertakes ongoing processes of reflection to ensure professional judgements acknowledge how personal culture impacts on practice
1.6	The midwife supports the development, implementation and evaluation of evidenced-based health initiatives and programs
2	Standard 2: Engages in professional relationships and respectful partnerships
2.3	The midwife practises ethically, with respect for dignity, privacy, confidentiality, equity and justice
2.4	The midwife practises without the discrimination that may be associated with race, age, disability, sexuality, gender identity, relationship status, power relations and/or social disadvantage
2.5	The midwife practises cultural safety that is holistic, free of bias and exposes racism
2.6	The midwife practises in a way that respects that family and community underpin the health of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples
2.7	The midwife develops, maintains and concludes professional relationships in a way that differentiates the boundaries between professional and personal relationships
3	Standard 3: Demonstrates the capability and accountability for midwifery practice
3.2	The midwife practises within relevant legal parameters and professional standards, codes and guidelines
3.3	The midwife participates in own continuing professional development to maintain the required knowledge and skill base for safe and effective practice
3.4	The midwife contributes to a culture that supports learning, teaching, knowledge transfer and critical reflection
3.5	The midwife engages in timely consultation, referral and documentation
3.7	The midwife recognises and responds appropriately where safe and quality practice may be compromised
3.8	The midwife considers and responds in a timely manner to the health and wellbeing of self and others in relation to the capability for practice
4	Standard 4: Undertakes comprehensive assessments
4.1	The midwife works in partnership to determine factors that affect, or potentially affect, the health and wellbeing of women, communities and populations
4.2	The midwife uses assessment techniques to systematically collect relevant and accurate information
4.3	The midwife analyses information and data and communicates assessments and anticipated outcomes as the basis for midwifery practice
4.4	The midwife assesses the resources that are available to inform planning
5	Standard 5: Develops a plan for midwifery practice
5.1	The midwife interprets assessment data and best available evidence to develop a plan for practice
5.4	The midwife documents, evaluates and modifies plans to facilitate the anticipated outcomes
6.3	The midwife is responsible for consultation and referral and/ or escalation in situations that are outside the individual's scope of practice
7.2	The midwife revises plan and actions based on evidence and what is learned from evaluation
7.3	The midwife uses evaluation and reflection to inform future practice and professional development

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program SC393

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

In week 4 students will complete Task 1 which will provide early feedback on their progress within the course.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	15%	1 hour	Week 4	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Case Study	Individual	40%	1,000 words	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3a	Practical / Laboratory Skills	Individual	10%	25mins	Week 11	In Class
All	3b	Written Piece	Individual	35%	750 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Quizzes

GOAL:	Revise key concepts introduced in the first 4 weeks										
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes										
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:											
FORMAT:	You will complete a timed online quiz via Canvas. Further information will be provided in Canvas.										
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th></th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the NMBA professional guidelines and practice standards</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Understand the frameworks that underpin midwifery practice</td> <td>2 4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.		Learning Outcome assessed	1	Demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of the NMBA professional guidelines and practice standards	2	2	Understand the frameworks that underpin midwifery practice	2 4	
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving, Information literacy										

All - Assessment Task 2: Case study

GOAL:	Apply foundational midwifery knowledge to a case study																			
PRODUCT:	Case Study																			
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																				
FORMAT:	You will choose one case study from the options provided in Canvas. Further information will be provided in Canvas.																			
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy																			

All - Assessment Task 3a: Practical / Laboratory Skills

GOAL:	Implement clinical practices, peer appraisal and reflection.									
PRODUCT:	Practical / Laboratory Skills									
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:										
FORMAT:	In the Week 11 laboratory session you will be required to complete a peer reviewed, clinical skill assessment activity. Further information will be provided in Canvas.									
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Organisation									

All - Assessment Task 3b: Written piece

GOAL:	The purpose of this task is to demonstrate your development of clinical skills and ability to become a reflective practitioner.																		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece																		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:																			
FORMAT:	You will submit a written piece, which will incorporate self-reflection and the use of relevant literature. Further information will be provided in Canvas.																		
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GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Information literacy																		

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Required	Ruth Johnson, Wendy Taylor, Sally de-Vitry Smith, Sara Bayes	2022	Skills for Midwifery Practice Australia and New Zealand 2nd edition.	n/a	Elsevier
Required	Sally Pairman, Sally K. Tracy, Hannah G. Dahlen, Lesley Dixon, PHD, RM	2023	Midwifery Preparation for Practice	5th	Elsevier
Required	Nicky Leap, Billie Hunter	2022	Supporting Women for Labour and Birth	2nd	Routledge
Required	Roslyn Donnellan - Fernandez, Maryam Bazargan, Clare Davison, Michelle Gray, Kirsten Small	2024	Pharmacology in Midwifery	n/a	Elsevier

8.2. Specific requirements

Students are advised that if the laboratory session has any formal assessment item(s) associated with it, these must be completed even if you have an acceptable reason for non-attendance of that class. It is the student's responsibility to seek out the course coordinator, at their earliest convenience, to ascertain how they will meet the learning objectives. Failure to satisfactorily complete the tutorial/laboratory work and any associated assessment items may severely impede your chances of meeting the learning outcomes of this course. You will need to wear closed shoes that comply with the UniSC Health and Safety Policies to any clinical practice laboratory sessions. Your clinical placement may have specific requirements, and information will be provided during your placement orientation. UniSC uniform as outlined on Canvas is to be worn on placement

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful.

The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- [UniSC Student Central](#)
- [UniSC Adelaide Student Central](#)