COURSE OUTLINE

NUR111 Practice Foundations

School: School of Health - Nursing

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay
UniSC Caboolture
UniSC Fraser Coast
UniSC Gympie

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

Nursing practice is a caring discipline. You will be introduced to key nursing concepts that will prepare you to engage and practice in a variety of diverse healthcare settings. The concepts investigated in this course are underpinned by the NSQHS standards and professional and ethical codes and practices. You will develop foundational skills that include therapeutic communication and key practice skills and knowledge essential for safe and quality nursing practice.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Online asynchronous learning and teaching materials.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On-campus Workshop.	2hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Principles of therapeutic and multidisciplinary communication.

Communication and interviewing skills.

Introduction to law and ethical codes.

Professional and ethical practice.

Critical thinking and the nursing process.

Preparation for practice in the nursing laboratories.

Vital signs and hand hygiene.

Principles of infection control and patient hygiene and safety.

Principles of care – nutrition and elimination.

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 On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
1 Understand the regulatory and professional codes, standards and guidelines of the NMBA and their application in nursing practice.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical	1.4, 1.5, 6.5
2 Understand and apply therapeutic communication skills used in nursing practice, and within the multidisciplinary team.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.2, 3.6, 3.7
3 Apply foundational knowledge of person - centred care planning and assessment in nursing practice, that is appropriate for the person's identity, culture, and experiences.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical	1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 6.1
4 Implement beginning psychomotor skills and accurate documentation practices.	Knowledgeable	1.6, 4, 4.1, 4.2, 6, 6.5, 6.6
5 Apply principles and practices of academic writing and referencing.	Knowledgeable Ethical	1.1, 3.5
6 Demonstrate ethical use of intellectual property	Ethical	

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA	
1.1	The RN accesses, analyses, and uses the best available evidence, that includes research findings for safe quality practice
1.2	The RN develops practice through reflection on experiences, knowledge, actions, feelings and beliefs to identify how these shape practice
1.3	The RN 1.3 respects all cultures and experiences, which includes responding to the role of family and community that underpin the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people of other cultures
1.4	The RN complies with legislation, common law, policies, guidelines and other standards or requirements relevant to the context of practice when making decisions
1.5	The RN uses ethical frameworks when making decisions
1.6	The RN maintains accurate, comprehensive and timely documentation of assessments, planning, decision- making, actions and evaluations
2.1	The RN establishes, sustains and concludes relationships in a way that differentiates the boundaries between professional and personal relationships

CODE	COMPETENCY
2.2	The RN communicates effectively, and is respectful of a person's dignity, culture, values, beliefs and rights
2.3	The RN recognises that people are the experts in the experience of their life
2.4	The RN provides support and directs people to resources to optimise health related decisions
2.5	The RN advocates on behalf of people in a manner that respects the person's autonomy and legal capacity
2.6	The RN uses delegation, supervision, coordination, consultation and referrals in professional relationships to achieve improved health outcomes
2.7	The RN actively fosters a culture of safety and learning that includes engaging with health professionals and others, to share knowledge and practice that supports person-centred care
2.8	The RN participates in and/or leads collaborative practice
2.9	The RN reports notifiable conduct of health professionals, health workers and others.
3.1	The RN considers and responds in a timely manner to the health and well being of self and others in relation to the capability for practice
3.2	The RN provides the information and education required to enhance people's control over health
3.5	The RN seeks and responds to practice review and feedback
3.6	The RN actively engages with the profession
3.7	The RN identifies and promotes the integral role of nursing practice and the profession in influencing better health outcomes for people
4	Standard 4: Comprehensively conducts assessments
4.1	The RN conducts assessments that are holistic as well as culturally appropriate
4.2	The RN uses a range of assessment techniques to systematically collect relevant and accurate information and data to inform practice
4.3	The RN works in partnership to determine factors that affect, or potentially affect, the health and well being of people and populations to determine priorities for action and/or for referral
5.1	The RN uses assessment data and best available evidence to develop a plan
6	Standard 6: Provides safe, appropriate and responsive quality nursing practice
6.1	The RN provides comprehensive safe, quality practice to achieve agreed goals and outcomes that are responsive to the nursing needs of people
6.5	The RN practises in accordance with relevant nursing and health guidelines, standards, regulations and legislation
6.6	The RN uses the appropriate processes to identify and report potential and actual risk related system issues and where practice may be below the expected standards

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 SC017, SC391

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

HLT131

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 the week 4 tutorial you will develop a draft of your Task 1 assessment. You will receive in-class tutor feedback on your draft.

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	1a	Activity Participation	Individual	0%	2 hours.	Week 3	In Class
All	1b	Essay	Individual	30%	1000 words.	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2a	Practical / Laboratory Skills	Individual	5%	10 minutes	Week 10	Online Submission
All	2b	Practical / Laboratory Skills	Individual	20%	Practical assessment and 100 words.	Week 12	In Class
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	45%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Test (Quiz)

All - Assessment Task 1a: Formative role play

GOAL:	You will develop and practice interpersonal communication in a specific role play activity in the week 3 tutorial. You will receive peer feedback that will allow to plan for Task 1b.
PRODUCT:	Activity Participation
FORMAT:	Engagement in a role play, the details of which will be provided to you.
CRITERIA:	**No.** / **Learning Outcome assessed** 1 Ability to relate and incorporate knowledge of interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills in nursing practice. — 2 2 Quality of interpersonal communication skills. — 2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 1b: Essay

GOAL:	In the week 3 and 4 tutorial you will be given the opportunity to plan your essay in which you will reflect on your interpersonal communication skills used to build therapeutic relationships.
PRODUCT:	Essay
FORMAT:	A 1000-word essay which will incorporate a self-reflection and the use of relevant literature. You will use the current APA referencing style.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Quality of the self-reflection of interpersonal communication skills in the essay.	2
2	Ability to relate and incorporate knowledge of interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills which is supported by accessing appropriately sourced quality literature.	2
3	Apply principles and practices of academic writing and referencing	5
4	Demonstrate ethical use of intellectual property	6

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 2a: Practical skills

GOAL:	You will demonstrate the practical application of a clinical skill.
PRODUCT:	Practical / Laboratory Skills
FORMAT:	In an nursing laboratory class you will be required to make a video based on clinical skill.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Implements beginning psychomotor skill of a 20-30 second hand rub in accordance with national standards and bare below the elbow requirements	4

GENERIC SKILLS:	Organisation

All - Assessment Task 2b: Scenario based peer assessment and reflection.

GOAL:	You will demonstrate knowledge of nursing practice, documentation and self-reflection.
PRODUCT:	Practical / Laboratory Skills
FORMAT:	In Week 13 nursing laboratory class you will be required to complete a peer reviewed clinical practice. This task will introduce you to the beginning practices of applying documentation and assessment practices and giving and receiving peer-based feedback.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Implement beginning psychomotor skills and accurate documentation practices.	4
2	Reflect on foundational knowledge of assessment, documentation and person-centred care in applying safe clinical nursing practice.	3

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	The goal of this task is for you to demonstrate the importance of regulatory and professional obligations of the Registered nurse and identify, relate and implement foundational nursing knowledge including interpersonal and interdisciplinary communication skills, assessment and planning used in nursing practice.
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled
FORMAT:	2-hour examination.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Understand the regulatory and professional codes, standards and guidelines of the NMBA and their application in nursing practice.	1
2	Understand and apply therapeutic interpersonal, interdisciplinary communication skills used in nursing practice.	2
3	Apply foundational knowledge of person-centred care planning and assessment in clinical nursing practice, that are appropriate for the person's identity, culture and experience.	3
4	Knowledge of beginning psychomotor skills and accurate documentation practices.	4

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, 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	AUDREY & FRANDSEN BERMAN (GERALYN & SNYDER, SHIRLEE ET AL.),Geralyn Frandsen,Shirlee Snyder,Tracy Levett-Jones,Adam Burston,Trudy Dwyer,Majella Hales,Nichole Harvey,Lorna Moxham,Tanya Langtree,Kerry Reid-Searl,Flora Rolf,David Stanley	2020	Kozier and Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing, Volumes 1-3	5th Australian edition	n/a
Recommended	Audrey Berman,Shirlee Snyder,Tracy Levett-Jones,Patricia Burton,Trish Burton,Nichole Harvey	0	Skills in Clinical Nursing	2nd	n/a
Recommended	USC	2022	NUR111 Practice Foundations Workbook	n/a	USC

8.2. Specific requirements

Prior to commencing the nursing laboratory based classes in Week 9 you will be required to complete the Nursing Laboratory Induction Quiz which will be available on Canvas.

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 access the available resources on CANVAS to 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 are required to wear fully enclosed shoes and uniform during all nursing laboratory classes.
All nursing laboratory classes must be attended.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all studio and laboratory classes and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risk concerns may include equipment, instruments, and tools; as well as manual handling items within the laboratory. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the 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