

**NUR222 Health, Law and Ethics****School:** School of Health - Nursing

2026 | Trimester 2

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

*Please go to [unisc.edu.au](https://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**

The principles of law and ethics are applied by nurses & midwives in everyday practice. You will examine the Australian legal system and relevant statutory bodies in order to understand legislation affecting health policy and nursing & midwifery practice. Ethical principles guide the practice of health professionals and you will gain an understanding of ethical decision making frameworks relevant to nursing & midwifery. You will apply theoretical knowledge presented in the course to critically appraise contemporary legal and ethical issues in health care practice.

**1.2. How will this course be delivered?**

| ACTIVITY                                                                                                                                               | HOURS | BEGINNING WEEK | FREQUENCY |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| ONLINE                                                                                                                                                 |       |                |           |
| <b>Online</b> – Online asynchronous learning and teaching recording and self-directed learning. Students will be supported with Zoom drop-in sessions. | 3hrs  | Week 1         | 12 times  |

**1.3. Course Topics**

- Ethical theories and principles:
- Ethical decision making
- Contemporary ethical issues
- Legislative and legal frameworks in health practice
- Legislation and law relevant to the practice environment
- Contemporary legal issues

**2. What level is this course?**

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

**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 Identify, describe and apply aspects of the Australian legal system and statutory bodies to nursing and midwifery practice. | Knowledgeable<br>Creative and critical thinker                         | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.4, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 3.7, 7.3                          |
| 2 Define and apply contemporary professional ethical standards to decision making and practice.                               | Creative and critical thinker<br>Ethical                               | 1.2, 1.4, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 3.7, 4.3, 6.5, 7.3 |
| 3 Critically analyse health situations from an ethical and legal perspective                                                  | Creative and critical thinker<br>Ethical                               | 1.2, 1.4, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 3.7, 4.3, 6.5, 7.3 |
| 4 Apply principles and practices of academic writing and referencing                                                          | Ethical                                                                |                                                                           |
| 5 Apply 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 midwife accesses, analyses, and uses the best available evidence, that includes research findings, for safe, quality midwifery 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 midwife undertakes ongoing processes of reflection to ensure professional judgements acknowledge how personal culture impacts on practice                                                                          |
| 1.5                                      | The RN uses ethical frameworks when making decisions                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1.7                                      | The midwife identifies and promotes the role of midwifery practice and the midwifery profession in influencing better health outcomes for women                                                                        |
| 2.1                                      | The RN establishes, sustains and concludes relationships in a way that differentiates the boundaries between professional and personal relationships                                                                   |
| 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                                                                                                                                          |
| 2.5                                      | The RN advocates on behalf of people in a manner that respects the person's autonomy and legal capacity                                                                                                                |
| 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                                |
| 2.9                                      | The RN reports notifiable conduct of health professionals, health workers and others.                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.7                                      | The RN identifies and promotes the integral role of nursing practice and the profession in influencing better health outcomes for people                                                                               |
| 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                        |
| 6.5                                      | The RN practises in accordance with relevant nursing and health guidelines, standards, regulations and legislation                                                                                                     |
| 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 SC385, SC391, SC392, SC393, SC335

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

PAR222

### 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

One online quiz will be conducted early in the trimester (week 4). The feedback from the online quiz is provided to students at the time of completion. The feedback will identify correct responses and identify where to find correct information for incorrect responses. This formative feedback will inform students about progress within the course and highlight the areas requiring additional support.

### 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          | 10%         | 30 minutes                        | Week 3                | Online Test (Quiz)                                 |
| All           | 2        | Case Study                    | Individual          | 40%         | 2000 words                        | Week 6                | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |
| All           | 3        | Artefact - Creative, and Oral | Individual          | 50%         | 10 minutes of narrated powerpoint | Week 12               | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Online Quiz

|                              |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>GOAL:</b>                 | The goal of this assessment is designed to help you develop an understanding about health law and ethics.                                       |                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>PRODUCT:</b>              | Quiz/zes                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b> |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>FORMAT:</b>               | The quiz will include multiple choice questions. Further information about the online quiz assessment will be posted on the Canvas course site. |                                                                                                                                            |                                  |
| <b>CRITERIA:</b>             | <b>No.</b>                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                            | <b>Learning Outcome assessed</b> |
|                              | 1                                                                                                                                               | Identify aspects of the Australian legal system and statutory bodies to nursing and midwifery practice.                                    | 1                                |
|                              | 2                                                                                                                                               | Understand and define contemporary professional ethical standards.                                                                         | 2                                |
|                              | 3                                                                                                                                               | Application of the principles and practices of reflective and academic writing and referencing in the style appropriate to the discipline. | 4                                |
|                              | 4                                                                                                                                               | Ethical use of intellectual property.                                                                                                      | 4                                |
| <b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>       | Problem solving                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |                                  |

#### All - Assessment Task 2: Written assessment

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>GOAL:</b>                 | Nurses, midwives and other health professionals have legal and ethical responsibilities and accountabilities in practice. The goal of this assessment is to apply your understanding of ethical and legal principles and requirements to the roles and responsibilities. |                                                                                                                             |                                  |
| <b>PRODUCT:</b>              | Case Study                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                             |                                  |
| <b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                  |
| <b>FORMAT:</b>               | You will be required to develop a written assessment to set case studies. Your responses will draw on theory, legislation, professional codes and practice standards. You will also provide a reflection based on your experience.                                       |                                                                                                                             |                                  |
| <b>CRITERIA:</b>             | <b>No.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                             | <b>Learning Outcome assessed</b> |
|                              | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Definition of and application of contemporary professional ethical standards to decision making and practice                | 1 2 3                            |
|                              | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Identify, describe and apply aspects of the Australian legal system and statutory bodies to nursing and midwifery practice. | 2                                |
|                              | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Critical analysis of health situations from an ethical and legal perspective                                                | 3                                |
|                              | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Application of the principles and practices of academic writing and referencing                                             | 4                                |
|                              | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ethical use of intellectual property.                                                                                       | 5                                |
| <b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>       | Problem solving, Information literacy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                             |                                  |

### All - Assessment Task 3: Narrated PowerPoint

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>GOAL:</b>                 | Nurses, midwives and health professionals are required to communicate through a wide range of mediums to a diverse audience. The goal of this task is to apply your knowledge and understanding of legal and ethical principles in assessing and presenting a case study to an audience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                              |                                  |
| <b>PRODUCT:</b>              | Artefact - Creative, and Oral                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                              |                                  |
| <b>AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                              |                                  |
| <b>FORMAT:</b>               | You will prepare a narrated PowerPoint presentation. The presentation will be 10 minutes long and using dot points, will address legal and ethical principles related to a provided case study. You will be required to produce and deliver the presentation along with 10 dot points in the note section. You will be provided with the PowerPoint template. The PowerPoint presentation needs to consider and draw on sources of relevant legislation, professional codes, practice standards and ethical theory. You need to discuss the application of principles to clinical practice and make conclusions based on your analysis of the case. |                                                                                                                                              |                                  |
| <b>CRITERIA:</b>             | <b>No.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              | <b>Learning Outcome assessed</b> |
|                              | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Identification, description and application of aspects of the Australian legal system and statutory bodies to nursing and midwifery practice | 1                                |
|                              | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Definition of and application of contemporary professional ethical standards to decision making and practice.                                | 2                                |
|                              | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Critically analyse health situations from an ethical and legal perspective                                                                   | 3                                |
|                              | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application of principles and practices of academic writing and referencing.                                                                 | 4                                |
|                              | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application of ethical use of intellectual property.                                                                                         | 5                                |
| <b>GENERIC SKILLS:</b>       | Communication, Problem solving, 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  | Fiona McDonald,Shih-Ning Then | 2019 | Ethics, Law and Health Care | 2       | Red Globe Press |

### 8.2. Specific requirements

Must have access to a computer and internet as this is an online course.

## 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](#)