

ADMISSION CRITERIA

a) **Current registration as a nurse in Australia**

Applicants for admission to the candidature for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) shall be registered to practise nursing in an Australian state or territory. Applicants will require evidence in the form of a copy of current authority to practise as a registered nurse from an Australian state or territory.

b) **Length and depth of experience – a minimum of five years full-time equivalent (FTE) experience as a Registered Nurse, including three years FTE as a Registered Nurse in a specialty area and one year FTE at an advanced practice level in the relevant specialty area of practice**

Applicants for admission to the candidature for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) shall:

- have a minimum of five years FTE experience as a Registered Nurse, of which three years FTE is in the area of practice relevant to the application and one of these years is at an advanced practice level
- be concurrently employed in the area of clinical practice that is relevant to the nurse practitioner application while undertaking their studies (minimum 16 hrs weekly)

Evidence required from applicant:

- curriculum vitae detailing both education and clinical experiences, role description and advanced practice experience
- minimum of two references* from two senior clinicians attesting to the applicant's advanced practice experience and capabilities (see reference guidelines below). Referees should be the applicant's line manager (senior nurse) or a senior colleague who has an established clinical relationship with the applicant over a minimum of one year.

**Reference guidelines for senior clinicians*

When providing a reference for applicants to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) please refer to the following guidelines and include the following information:

1. Applicant's name and clinical position
2. Referee's name, qualifications and clinical position
3. Length of time applicant known to referee
4. Capacity in which applicant is known to the referee. The applicant's ability to conduct advanced practice^ nursing in relation to the areas of practice listed below with examples of how the applicant demonstrates these skills:
 - a. Advanced level health assessment skills

- b. Advanced level therapeutic management skills
- c. Advanced level differential diagnostic skills and knowledge
- d. Advanced level pharmacology knowledge
- e. Advanced level triage/prioritisation skills
- f. Ability to evaluate practice at an advanced level.
- g. Effective clinical leadership

5. Signature and date.

^ Definition of 'advanced practice nursing'

'Advanced practice nursing' (APN) is the term used to define a level of nursing practice that uses comprehensive skills, experience and knowledge in nursing care (NMBA 2013). The basis of advanced practice is the high degree of knowledge, skill and experience applied in the nurse-patient/client relationship in order to achieve optimal outcomes through critical analysis, problem solving and accurate decision-making (NMBA 2013). Advanced practice may be demonstrated with evidence relating to the following practice domains as specified by the NMBA Fact Sheet:

Advanced Practice Nursing:

- direct and comprehensive care
- support of systems
- education
- research
- publication, and
- professional leadership.

NMBA (2013) Fact Sheet: Advanced Practice Nursing available at:

<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/FAQ/fact-sheet-advanced-practice-nursing.aspx>

- c) **Requisite education or equivalent in a specialty field as entry to the nurse practitioner program – Bachelor of Nursing or equivalent and Postgraduate qualification in a specialty field that has prepared the student for advanced practice (either as a prerequisite or integrated into the master's degree)**

Applicants for admission to the candidature for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) shall:

- hold a Bachelor of Nursing degree, or another equivalent degree
- hold a minimum of a graduate certificate in the area of clinical practice that is relevant to the nurse practitioner application.

Evidence required from applicant:

- application for admission to this coursework degree, and
- copies of academic transcripts or clinical qualifications/achievements.

d) Required professional activity – active involvement in professional organisations and contribution to the ongoing development of the profession

Please refer to Criterion b) regarding evidence relating to assessment advanced practice, including professional activity.

e) Confirmed support for the applicant to complete all professional experience requirements of the course

Applicants for admission to the candidature for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) shall:

- have organisational support to carry out the clinical practicum (including 300 advanced practice clinical hours) prescribed in the course. (Clinical practicum refers to activities undertaken within the clinical setting in order to advance the candidates scope of practice for the purpose of completing the requirements of the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner.)
- have a nominated Primary Clinical Supervisor (see description below) to support the student's learning while undertaking the practice embedded in the course.

Evidence required from applicant:

- letter from employer confirming employment status
- letter of support from Director of Nursing, or delegated responsible person (proposed or current) indicating that the applicant will be supported to carry out the 300 advanced clinical practice hours during enrolment and confirming that facility indemnity arrangements apply to these designated learning hours (see template below)
- letter from a nominated Primary Clinical Supervisor stating that they have cited the role description for Primary Clinical Supervisor (see role description below) and are willing to fulfil the role of mentor, teacher, supervisor and assessor of the student while conducting the required clinical advanced practice hours, and
- a copy of the proposed Primary Clinical Supervisor's Curriculum Vitae (CV).

PRIMARY CLINICAL SUPERVISOR

Students will be required to be supported by an approved Primary Clinical Supervisor while undertaking the degree. The Primary Clinical Supervisor will have responsibility to act as a mentor/teacher, supervisor and clinical assessor while the student undertakes the required clinical components of this course.

Mentor and teacher

- Interacts with the student on a regular basis to discuss learning objectives of specific focus and interest to the student. While it is understood that the frequency of supervisor/ student interactions will vary throughout the student's candidature, it is expected that the student will take responsibility to initiate regular contact, and that the supervisor will communicate time availability to facilitate such interactions
- Provides role support at the advanced and extended nursing practice level
- Specifies, in conjunction with the student, specific goals and objectives for the relationship
- Acts as a role model and provide role support to the student as they develop their advanced and extended nursing practice skills
- Assists the student to engage in reflection-on-practice throughout the units of study and in the development of their portfolio in the final year of study.

Supervisor

- Facilitates the student's required advanced clinical practice hours (total 300 hours) and undertake formal assessment of the student's clinical performance as outlined in the units of study
- Assists the student to engage in an advanced and extended nursing practice role
- Provides support in challenging or difficult circumstances.

Assessor

- Completes evaluations of clinical performance at the times specified by the University
- Assists in the evaluation of the student through participation in the Multidisciplinary Assessment Panel at the completion of the course
- Maintains student confidentiality and liaise with the Nurse Practitioner Coordinator as necessary.