

AQF LEVEL	AQF LEVEL 8 CRITERIA – GRADUATE CERTIFICATE		PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
PURPOSE	The Graduate Certificate qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional/highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning.		
KNOWLEDGE	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have specialised knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area	In the context of critical care nursing practice, graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing will have advanced knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of the nurse in advanced practice within the various clinical, political and professional contexts • the scientific and theoretical basis for the clinical assessment, management and care of critically ill patients and groups with altered physiological function • the multiple legal, social, ethical, organisational and scope of practice implications and considerations for effective and informed advanced practice and professional role development • contemporary concepts of leadership and management relevant to health services including standards, policies and legislation associated with advanced critical care nursing practice • research and evidence-base that informs quality and safe critical care nursing practice and health care. 	
SKILLS	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems • cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas • specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice 	In the context of critical care nursing practice, graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced cognitive skills that demonstrate their ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ synthesise nursing and related content knowledge and professional experience for contemporary practice ○ investigate, analyse and synthesise information, problems, and concepts to interdisciplinary bodies of knowledge and practice in education to inform nursing practice ○ to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise the use of techniques, materials, processes, and contemporary practices in nursing care. 	

- communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts
 - communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences
- Advanced professional clinical and non-clinical technical skills to:
 - conduct focused and comprehensive health assessments of clients within an expanded scope of practice in critical care situations
 - identify normal and abnormal states of health through synthesis and interpretation of assessment information including client history, physical findings and results of investigations to inform differential diagnoses
 - initiate nursing care and interventions and manage critically ill patients using research and evidence.
 - Advanced communication skills to:
 - solve clinical and practice problems communicate complex knowledge and ideas, including an understanding of theoretical concepts, to patients, their families, other healthcare professionals and a variety of audiences in a variety of critical care nursing practice settings.

**APPLICATION OF
KNOWLEDGE &
SKILLS**

Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:

- to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts
- to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts
- with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters

In the context of advanced critical care nursing practice, graduates of the Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing will demonstrate the application of advanced knowledge and skills by:

- practising in a safe, collaborative and evidence-based manner within their scope of practice relevant to their own speciality focus in accordance with contemporary nursing models of care and professional standards determined by the Australian College of Critical Care Nursing
- assessing the health status of individuals and/or populations and, where necessary, formulate, implement and monitor management plans in consultation with patients, their families and the community
- demonstrating professional knowledge and behaviours as determined by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council
- retrieving, critically evaluating and applying evidence in the performance of nursing and healthcare
- evaluating the impact of social factors on health of individuals and communities and moderating these influence of these thereby promoting and optimising the health and welfare
- contributing to local and national nursing and health policy and services that enhance the health of individuals and communities
- reflecting on current skills, knowledge and attitudes, and plan ongoing personal and professional development.