Welcome to Nursing at the University of Wollongong clinical web page. An important part of clinical learning will be the clinical laboratories, workshops and clinical placement undertaken during the six semesters of the undergraduate degree commitment. During the three years of study, students will attend a total of 20 weeks off campus clinical placement.

The Nursing curriculum is comprehensive and our students will have the opportunity to attend clinical placements in a wide variety of settings. In fact there are 286 clinical facilities involved in our clinical program. Most of the placements are situated in the Illawarra and South East Area Health Service, Sydney South West Area Health Service and some remote areas. Those students enrolled at the Bega Campus will mainly attend placements in the Greater Southern Area Health Service and ACT.

Nursing is both an art and a science and to this end it is important that students are able to transfer the knowledge learnt in the classroom to what is generally called the “real world”. Clinical practice is incorporated into the curriculum to allow students’ the opportunity to transfer knowledge into practice in a safe learning environment under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN).

Students are supervised at all times by staff nominated by the Department of Nursing and the associated organisations to facilitate clinical practice. The University’s expectations of students’ professional development will involve an increase of knowledge and its application will increase as students’ progress through the curriculum. Learning will be incremental and will culminate in semester six with a placement in a clinical area with patients who have multiple health issues. This placement may be in a tertiary hospital and/or a community setting, both areas demand a holistic approach that will allow students to consolidate knowledge in diverse clinical areas.

Student requirements to attend clinical placements

To attend public and most Non Government facilities, The NSW Health Department requires all students to have the following:

- Criminal Record Clearance card;
- Adult vaccination record card;
- Prohibited Persons Declaration.

These are organised through the Department of Nursing. Further information can be located at the NSW Health Department web site at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/

Models for Clinical learning

During clinical placements, students will usually be placed with a (RN) on a one to one basis. Only an RN is authorised to record student assessments. The student will work with the RN attending to patient/client/resident care.

A Clinical Facilitator is a RN employed by the facility or the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous to oversee and teach a group of Nursing Students during the clinical placement. A Preceptor is an RN employed by the facility, has a patient load and is assigned to one student. The Preceptor is responsible for teaching and assessing one student. The Preceptor model is often utilised in community settings, mental health and at placements where there are small numbers of students.
Clinical Facilitator Information

Clinical Facilitators are employed by the Department of Nursing on a casual and seasonal basis. Please refer to clinical calendar on this site. The Department of Nursing welcomes enquiries from RNs interested in becoming a Clinical Facilitator. The requirements are as follows:

- Current registration with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Board;
- Three years post registration clinical experience;
- Hold a Bachelor of Nursing or equivalent

Also, Clinical Facilitators are required to obtain a Criminal Record Clearance, Adult vaccination record card and a Prohibited Persons Declaration. These can be organised through the SNM & IH.

Clinical Facilitator/Preceptor Responsibilities

- Attend to pre-clinical preparation. For example: reading or facility visits.
- Dress appropriate for the clinical setting.
- Check students' CRC and ensure they carry a vaccination record card.
- Ensure all students' receive orientation at the beginning of each clinical placement. e.g. fire, emergency procedures.
- Facilitate an environment conducive to learning. For example, discuss student learning opportunities with staff/RNs.
- Support a mutually beneficial working relationship between staff and student. For example, provide some strategies for staff to engage students in nursing care.
- Encourage student participation and learning.
- Direct and assist students to seek out learning opportunities.
- Give direction to students to enhance learning.
- Provide thorough evaluation. Include the students' positive attributes and give clear direction for student improvement in all the learning domains.
- Seek out feedback on student progress from staff/RNs.
- Give each student progressive verbal and written feedback as required.
- Be accountable for and document the time spent with each student.
- Plan the clinical day so that each student will gain the maximum.
- Student access to written comments must be given.
- Complete all student performance profiles and discuss the comments with the student.
- Monitor student attendance on clinical accurately to ensure clinical attendance requirements are met.
- Ensure all relevant documentation is sent to the University of Wollongong on time. For example time sheets.
- Provide extra documentation when required.
To apply please send the following:

- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Two recent passport size photo with Justice of the Peace verification on the back.
- Copy of both sides of your current NMB registration.
- A covering letter stating your reasons for applying to be a Clinical Facilitator, preferred subject areas to work in and preferred geographical areas to work.

Send applications to:

Clinical Coordinator
Department of Nursing
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522

Enquiries: 02 42 213338
02 42 213299
### CLINICAL CALENDAR 2007

#### AUTUMN SESSION

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**Workshop**
- 263/262
- 322/362
- 362/322

**Pattern A**
- 323 A Prac
- 324 A Prac
- 324 B Prac

**Pattern B**
- 324 A Study
- 324 B Study

**Year 1**
- No Labs
- One Clinical Day

**Year 2**
- Week Labs
- 266
- 267

**Year 3**
- Labs
- 367 B
- 365 A Prac

**Workshop**
- 368 B
- 365 A Prac
- 367 A Lab

### SPRING SESSION

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**Prefix 1 - First Year**
- 163 - Fundamentals of Nursing (Nursing Homes)
- 166 - Medical/Surgical/paeds Nursing

**Prefix 2 - Second Year**
- 262 - Medical/Surgical/paeds Nursing 2
- 263 - Mental Health Nursing
- 266 - Medical/Surgical/paeds Nursing 3
- 267 - Family and Maternal Health Nursing

**Prefix 3 - Third Year**
- 322 - Developmental Disability
- 362 - Continuing, Rehabilitative & Palliative Care Nursing
- 365 - Mental Health Nursing
- 367 - Medical/Surgical Nursing/paeds 4 Multi-system Disorder

**Public Holidays**
- Good Friday – 6/4/07 (week 7)
- Easter Monday – 9/4/07
- ANZAC Day – Wed 25/4/06 (week 9)
- Queens Birthday – 11/6/07 (exam week)
- October Labour Day – 1/10/07 (week 11)
DESCRIPTION OF CLINICAL SUBJECTS

NURS163 – Fundamentals of Nursing
(Clinical Placements available in aged care facilities, chronic care and some acute facilities)

This subject will provide a foundation for safe and effective nursing practice for all other nursing care subjects. It will introduce students to the roles and functions of the nurse and critical thinking skills. The theoretical foundation provided will promote the development of clinical skills and reflective practice. Application of these skills and practices will occur in supervised clinical practicum in appropriate areas.

NURS166 – Medical/Surgical Nursing 1
(Clinical placements available in hospitals: some placements in Community and Paediatrics)

This subject is designed to build upon the content of NURS163 Fundamentals of Nursing in that it examines the prescription of nursing care once client needs have been established using holistic nursing assessment criteria. In doing so it seeks to prepare participants for supervised clinical practice in medical/surgical settings throughout the total programme.

NURS262 - Medical/Surgical Nursing 2
(Clinical placements available in hospitals: also placements may be in Community, Paediatrics and Operating Theatre)

Medical/Surgical Nursing 2 is a clinically orientated subject that will require the student to integrate concepts related to the biophysical, pathophysiological, pharmacological, psychosocial and cultural diversity dimensions of individuals and families. This subject will provide the student with an opportunity to apply their understanding of the control mechanisms of the body that maintain homeostasis and coordination and relate these to fluid and electrolyte balance, renal function, neurological and endocrine control and movement. This subject includes the study of normal and abnormal pathophysiology across the life span. This subject will also examine in detail the role of the nurse in assessing people with alterations in fluid and electrolyte balance, renal function, coordination, control and movement: identifying actual and potential problems for these people, making clinical decisions within a professional, ethical and legal framework; and collaborative care incorporating relevant diagnostics and therapeutics.

NURS263 – Mental Health Nursing
(Placements available in hospitals and community)

This subject will introduce the students to the concept of mental health, mental disorders and the provision of care for people who are affected by these disorders. Students will be given an overview of the forces that have shaped mental health services in Australia today. The subject will cover the affects that various mental disorders and substance related disorders have on the population and the impact this has on nurses working in the health field. This subject has been developed alongside of, and compliments, the work contained in your text book.
NURS266 - Medical / Surgical Nursing 3
(Clinical placements available in hospitals: also placements may be in Community, Paediatrics and Operating theatre)

Medical/Surgical Nursing 3 is a clinically orientated subject that will require the student to integrate concepts related to the biophysical, pathophysiological, pharmacological, psychosocial and cultural diversity dimensions of individuals and families. This subject will provide the student with an opportunity to apply their understanding of the control mechanisms of the body which maintain homeostasis and coordination and relate these to people with alterations in oxygenation, perfusion, ingestion and elimination. This subject includes the study of normal and abnormal pathophysiology across the life span. This subject will also examine in detail the role of the nurse in assessing people with alterations in oxygenation, perfusion, ingestion and elimination: identifying actual and potential problems for these people, making clinical decisions within a professional, ethical and legal framework; and collaborative care incorporating relevant diagnostics and therapeutics.

NURS267 – Family & Maternal Health Nursing
(placements may be available in hospitals, Community and Child Care Centres)

The subject will introduce the student to concepts of family in its contemporary forms and to skills that will enable them to effectively care for women and their babies during the childbearing period, under the supervision of certified midwives. It will describe physical and psychological changes that occur in a variety of pregnancy circumstances. The nurses' role in the family's experience of pregnancy and childbirth will be explored and professional, legal, ethical and cultural diversity will be discussed. Factors affecting family health will be addressed in the context of the childbearing period and early childhood.

NURS322 – Development Disability Nursing
(Placements available in Group Homes and Community organizations)
Provides a theoretical and practical introduction to the field of developmental disability. Particular focus will be given to the concepts of normalisation and integration of people with disabilities into society.

NURS362 – Continuing, Rehabilitative and Palliative Care Nursing
(placements may be available in hospitals, aged care facilities, community and rehabilitation/palliative care facilities).

There are a number of chronic health conditions that are commonly encountered by nurses. These conditions are particularly, but not only prevalent in the aged population. This is a clinically orientated subject which examines a number of issues related to chronic health conditions, particularly the goals of aged, rehabilitative and palliative care. The student will have the opportunity to integrate knowledge gained from previous subjects into the care of the person with a chronic disorder. This subject will consider a detailed examination of the role of the nurse in assessing and identifying problems associated with alterations in clients, and making clinical decisions about appropriate nursing interventions and outcomes.
NURS365 – Mental Health Nursing 2
(Placements may be available in Hospitals and Community).

Students will be encouraged to develop their understanding of the concepts of mental health nursing. This subject will examine specific skills in identifying planning, implementing and evaluating care for individuals affected by a range of complex serious and enduring mental disorders, including dealing with the impact of these disorders on family members. This will involve students being directly involved in skills acquisition for the provision of care for these clients.

NURS367 - Medical / Surgical Nursing 4
(Placements available in Hospitals and other facilities)

Medical/Surgical Nursing 4 is a clinically orientated subject that will facilitate the student to integrate concepts related to the biophysical, pathophysiological, pharmacological, psychosocial and cultural diversity dimensions of individuals and families. This subject will enable the student to synthesise knowledge and skills gained from the previous Physiological Nursing subjects to high dependency patients. This subject will also examine in detail the role of the nurse in assessing people with injury and multi-system disorders; identifying actual and potential problems for these people, making clinical decisions within a professional, ethical and legal framework; and collaborative care incorporating relevant diagnostics and therapeutics.

**UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG CODE OF PRACTICE - PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS**