

514-770 Nursing the Older Person

Credit Points:	6.25
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	On campus
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 18 hours lectures and tutorial, 6 Clinical laboratory, 80 Clinical Practicum, TOTAL: 104 hours Total Time Commitment: Approximately 140 hours Students are expected to devote approximately 5-6 hour a week to this subject and 40 hours per week for 2 weeks during clinical practicum
Prerequisites:	n/a
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	This subject requires students to actively and safely contribute to clinical activities. Students who feel their disability will impact on meeting this requirement are encouraged to discuss this matter with the Nursing Course Coordinator and the Disability Liaison Unit.
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Subject Overview:	In this subject students will gain an understanding of the complex needs of older people in various health care contexts. Through an understanding of ageism and the reality of normal ageing students will be able to identify the features of normal ageing, ageism and elder abuse, and discuss the concepts of dignity, respect for patient autonomy and independence. By learning of the services available to older people across the continuum of care, students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the continuum of care, including case management, discharge planning, follow-up services and palliative care. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply the nursing process to the physical, psychological, social, emotional, spiritual, sexual and end-of-life needs of older people. Students will be able to identify common pathophysiologies of ageing, including dementia, and recognise the implications of polypharmacy related to ageing. They will learn to utilise skills in assessment, including non-verbal assessment, in order to identify appropriate management of pain in the context of chronic disease. Students will also gain an understanding of the older person in the context of his or her family, and to identify appropriate responses to bereavement, death and loss.
Objectives:	At the completion of this subject the student should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Identify the features of normal ageing, ageism and elder abuse, and discuss the concepts of dignity, respect for patient autonomy and independence; # Develop a comprehensive knowledge of the range of services available to older people in various contexts across the continuum of care; # Demonstrate skills in applying the nursing process to the physical, psychological, social, emotional, spiritual, sexual and end-of-life needs of older people; # Identify common pathophysiologies of ageing, including dementia, and recognise the implications of polypharmacy related to ageing; # Utilise skills in assessment, including non-verbal assessment, to identify appropriate management of pain in the context of chronic disease; # Gain an understanding of the older person in the context of his or her family, and to identify appropriate responses to bereavement, death and loss. # Develop care plans for the older person with complex care needs.

Assessment:	Written patient profile of 500 words (20%) - Due mid semester Written assignment of 2,000 words (80%) - Due end semester Students must pass the written assignment to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	Brown, D. and Edwards, H. 2005. Lewis's medical-surgical nursing: Assessment and management of clinical problems. Sydney: Elsevier-Mosby
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	At the completion of this subject, the student should be able to demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # the capacity for information seeking, retrieval and evaluation; # evidence based attitudes to knowledge creation; # critical thinking problem solving and analytical skills; # oral and written communication skills; # planning and time management skills; # intercultural sensitivity; # an openness to new ideas.
Related Course(s):	Master of Nursing Science