

514-888 Foundations in Cancer & Palliative Care1

Credit Points:	25.00
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2009, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, - Taught on campus. Off campus (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) & field practice.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 42 hours off-campus lectures (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) and 12 hours online tutorials. Field practice component of a minimum of 300 hours Total Time Commitment: In addition to the subject contact hours, students are expected to devote approximately 9 hours a week to this subject. Students can anticipate a time commitment of approximately 24 hours per week concurrent field practice.
Prerequisites:	NBV Registration (Unrestricted) Students must be employed at an affiliated clinical agency and provide documentation of clinical support arrangements necessary to undertake the professional practice portfolio prior to enrolment.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's courses. Students who feel their disability will impact on meeting this requirement are encouraged to discuss this matter with the Course Coordinator and the Disability Liaison Unit.
Coordinator:	Miss Nicole King
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Subject Overview:	<p>This subject is designed to promote development of foundational theoretical knowledge to support safe practice as a beginning level specialty nurse in the clinical environment of Cancer & Palliative Care.</p> <p>Key content relates to understanding the pathophysiology of cancer and carcinogenesis, and the principles of cure, control, symptom management and palliation. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation will be described as core treatments and elements of a multi-modal approach. The impact of diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and survivorship on the person confronted with a life threatening illness and their family, as well as the ethico-legal aspects of care will be explored. Emphasis is placed on health assessment for implementing and evaluating physical and psychosocial care across the disease trajectory. Throughout the subject the development of knowledge and skills in therapeutic communication will be promoted.</p> <p>Interventions initiated by nurses at a beginning level of specialty practice will be described in terms of the research evidence underpinning practice and the technical knowledge that is a pre-</p>

	requisite for skill development. Students engage in field practice to address learning objectives focussing on the application of theoretical knowledge to skill development and the practice of caring for patients in the cancer and palliative care practice setting.
Objectives:	<p>Students will be expected to be able to demonstrate their beginning specialty nursing practice through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # integration of the theoretical content covered within the subject to develop new knowledge that supports safe practice as a beginning specialty nurse in cancer or palliative care settings; # the ability to integrate knowledge and skills learnt in the subject to recognise and plan a response to patients experiencing alterations to health and wellness that occur in the specific context of cancer or palliative care settings; # the ability to understand and evaluate specialised interventions as described in the subject content to provide a foundation for participating in the delivery of care at the beginning level of cancer or palliative care nursing practice; # the capacity to use skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, rational inquiry and self-directed learning to apply knowledge learnt in the theoretical component of the subject to beginning level cancer or palliative care nursing clinical practice; # an understanding of the changing knowledge base in the specialist area; # the ability to apply scientific knowledge to understand skills and techniques applicable to the specialist area.
Assessment:	<p>Theoretical Component 60% 1. Problem solving exercise equivalent to 2500 words (30%) - Due week 8 2. Critical analysis of communication skill equivalent to 2,500 words (30%) - Due at end of semester Clinical Component 40% 3. A professional practice portfolio which must include evidence of clinical competency achievement and is equivalent to 3,000 words (40%) - Due by the end of semester Students must achieve a pass in both the theoretical and clinical component in order to pass the subject.</p>
Prescribed Texts:	n/a
Recommended Texts:	A list of recommended texts will be supplied to students on enrolment in the subject.
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:	<p>On completion of the subject students should have developed the following generic skills of the Melbourne graduate and postgraduate coursework student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # a capacity to articulate their knowledge and understanding in written modes of communication; # a capacity to manage competing demands on time, including self-directed project work.
Links to further information:	http://www.nursing.unimelb.edu.au