Critical Care Unit

Ballarat Health Services Critical Care Unit has 12 beds that manage intensive care, high dependency and coronary care admissions. The unit looks after more than a 1000 patients per year and on a daily basis manages patients with serious or critical illnesses. The Intensive Care Unit provides life support for patients and respiratory, cardiac and kidney failure is managed by highly trained staff and state-of-the-art equipment. The Unit also provides a hospital nurse liaison and medical emergency team service for hospital inpatients. A High Dependency Unit is co-located within the Intensive Care and provides care for patients following major surgery or for seriously ill patients requiring intensive monitoring and observation as part of their care.

Applications

The course is advertised in the local newspaper and major Melbourne newspapers during September.

Applications are made directly to Ballarat Health Services and to the University of Melbourne.

Online application is via Nursing, Melbourne School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne at http://www.nursing.unimelb.edu.au/future_students/specialty_and_advanced_practice/applications

Additional Information

Ballarat Health Services:
Ms. Marian Fox
Acting - Clinical Nurse Educator-Critical Care
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University of Melbourne:
Telephone: (03) 8344-9400
Website: http://www.nursing.unimelb.edu.au

Centre for Nursing & Health Education
in affiliation with
The University of Melbourne

Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing Practice (Critical Care)
Ballarat Health Services

Ballarat Health Services is the largest regional health service in the Grampians region and the principal referral hospital. Ballarat Health Services admits in excess of 33,000 acute inpatients, performs more than 10,000 surgical operations, delivers more than 1,000 babies and treats more than 46,000 patients in the Emergency Department per annum.

The Centre for Nursing & Health Education offers a Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing Practice in conjunction with the University of Melbourne in the streams of critical care, emergency nursing and paediatrics. It also offers a Graduate Certificate/Diploma of Nursing Practice (Perioperative), and Post Graduate Certificate of Nursing Practice (Cardiac Care) in conjunction with Deakin University. The Centre for Nursing & Health Education also offers programs in a number of key speciality areas of nursing practice and conducts regular specialised short courses and study days.

Application Prerequisites

- Registered Nurse Division 1 with Nurses Board of Victoria
- Hold a current Victorian Practising Certificate
- Minimum of 12 months recent post-registration acute general nursing experience

Selection Criteria

- Meets University of Melbourne selection criteria
- Meet medical, police & working with children criteria
- Satisfactory interview
- Satisfactory clinical references

Structure of the Course

Course Aims:

To enable registered Division 1 nurses to gain a broad knowledge base from which to plan and care for patients who are critically ill.

To provide an academic and clinical environment for the professional growth of registered nurses into specialised critical care nurses.

Course Duration/Employment:

Course is of 12 months duration commencing in January of each year (incorporating rostered annual leave). Participants will be employed at 0.84 EFT with a contract for employment for duration of the course.

Theoretical Component:

The University of Melbourne administers the theoretical component of the course. Ballarat Health Services provides a strong supportive link challenging the student’s theoretical knowledge in the clinical setting. The theoretical program is completed in one academic year.

Clinical Component:

The clinical component of the course is undertaken in the Critical Care Unit of Ballarat Base Hospital with specific objectives and assessments as set by the University of Melbourne. The Clinical Nurse Educator provides structured clinical tutorials, worksheets, daily bedside clinical teaching and progressive, dynamic assessment methods in order for the student to achieve clinical performance.

Clinical Supervision & Assessments

Clinical supervision, assessment and planning is undertaken by the Clinical Nurse Educator - Critical Care who is supernumerary to critical care staff. The Educator’s role is to support, mentor and facilitate the student’s clinical program and educational development.

Formal clinical appraisal and assessment of competency skills are undertaken throughout the course in accordance with University of Melbourne guidelines. Clinical assessments focus on the acquisition, understanding and demonstration of clinical skills in specialised areas of critical care.