

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CRITICAL CARE (CHILD) NURSING

A collaborative programme between the
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
REHABILITATION SCIENCES**
Division of Nursing and Midwifery
and
**DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS
AND CHILD HEALTH**
Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative

*Are you ready to become a
Critical Nurse Specialist (Child)?
Ready to improve the survival rates of
critically ill and injured children in our
country and on our continent?*

What are the philosophical underpinnings of child nurse training in the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative?

- Each child, newborn to adolescent, is a unique and valuable human being.
- Family and community are the ideal context of care for children.
- Mother-child interaction is a key indicator of a child's health outcome.
- **Improving care provided to the sickest of children ensures that the trend towards reduced mortality and morbidity continues. A Critical Nurse Specialist (Child) crucial role is to recognise and prevent deterioration in a sick child.**
- A child's health is not static; it varies in time and along a continuum of health and illness.
- Skilful, caring and ethical nursing is offered in the context of engaged relationships and multidisciplinary team.
- Best practice in nursing is evidence-based and aligned to regional need and context.
- Adult learners are self motivated to learn and improve their own practice.



What can you expect from this Postgraduate Diploma in Child Critical Care Nursing?

Innovative teaching, learning and assessment approaches.
Alignment of content to the major health challenges of critically ill/injured children in the region, and to national service delivery programme directives.
Development of specialist skills and knowledge applicable to local clinical settings.
Diverse clinical placements across the critical care continuum.
Stimulating collegial conversations.
The challenge to think critically and to contribute clearly.
A strengths-based approach to teaching and learning.
On-going educational support.
Personal and professional growth.

We challenge you to continually 'raise the bar' and achieve your best as a Critical Nurse Specialist (Child) in your own setting and in the African context.



We welcome students from all South African provinces and other African countries.

Entrance requirements for the course:

- Four year degree in nursing or a qualification recognised by the UCT senate and South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as equivalent;
- **AND** Registration with the SANC as a general nurse;
- **AND** Two years clinical experience in a paediatric critical care setting;
- Computer literacy and evidence of English language literacy and proficiency.

N.B. Applicants from outside SA must submit proof of registration as a nurse within their home countries. Limited registration with the SANC is required for the duration of the course.

Duration:

One year full time. All lectures, course work, assessments and clinical placements to be completed inside the year. Students are required to live in Cape Town for the year.

Time investment required:

Lecture time is concentrated into four blocks of three weeks spread throughout the year. Between blocks, students are required to work in pre-allocated clinical settings, and gather for class every Tuesday. Two further days per week should be allocated for self study and assignment completion.

Venue:

Lectures held on UCT Health Sciences Campus and at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (RCWMCH). Clinical placements based in Cape Town, mostly at RCWMCH.

Quality assurance:

Research-based curriculum. Designed with an intentional evaluation process. All courses externally examined.

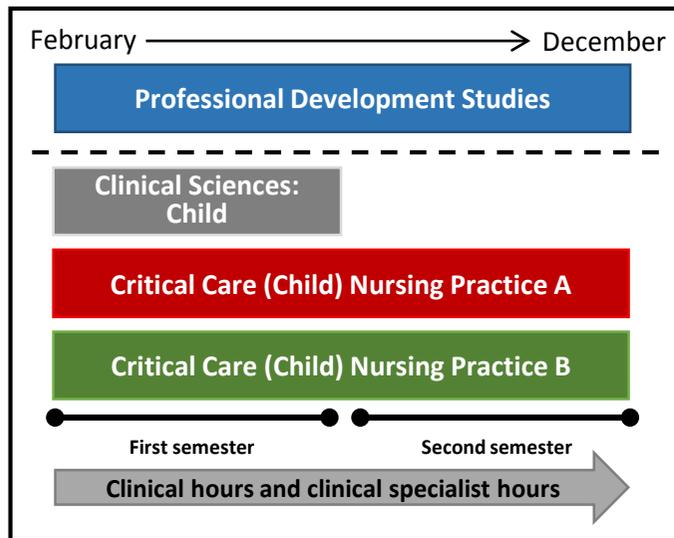
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STRUCTURE OF THE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CRITICAL CARE (CHILD)NURSING AT UCT

This Post Graduate Diploma in Critical Care (Child) Nursing is structured according to the South African NQSF 2013 Guidelines for a post graduate Diploma programme - its purpose and outcome is achieving clinical competence in Children's Nursing. This 120 credit Postgraduate Diploma programme is offered as a collaborative design between the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences. The clinical discipline-specific courses and learning are coordinated in Paediatrics and Child Health by the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative and the non discipline-specific course is coordinated in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences by the Division of Nursing and Midwifery. Intentional interdisciplinary learning is a core value in the design. The programme consists of four courses :

Details and organisation of the courses:



Clinical Sciences: Child (AHS4129F)

This course serves to equip the student with the skills to proficiently **assess** a child from head to toe. On completion of this course, the student will be able to apply the skills and knowledge learnt into courses Critical Care Child Nursing Practice A & B so to effect the planning and implementation of appropriate nursing care. Lectures will guide the students to understand the essential components of a physical examination and the techniques required to gain the valuable information. They will also ensure that a student can take a comprehensive medical history of the child including a family history.

Critical Care (Child) Nursing Practice A & B (AHS 4130W & AHS4131W)

Nursing Practice A serves to equip the student with the skills and knowledge to proficiently **plan** evidence-based nursing care, and Nursing Practice B with the skills to **implement** such care. It is expected that these courses, together with Clinical Sciences, will ensure maximum application of nursing theory to practice. Learning activities in these courses will address common pathologies and their associated pathophysiology and care, facilitate interdisciplinary and familial communication, encourage the recognition of the needs of specific groups of children, encourage the application of current policy to local nursing care and develop critical thinking and skills. Academic and computer literacy skills will be advanced and practice improvement strategies will be discussed.

Professional Development Studies (AHS4122W) (Course common to all Post Graduate Diplomas in Nursing)

This course is based on the primary health and social justice approach, focusing on the intersections between health, equity and social development, using organisers of chronic and lifestyle related conditions. It comprises of four units: Communication and interpersonal skills; Contemporary issues affecting health care, including human rights and ethics; Research literacy and community assessments, Leadership and professional development.

The critical care (child) specific courses fit perfectly together within the practice of children's nursing and are intentionally taught using a 7+1 Nursing steps model.

