

## Course Outline

**Code: NUR731 (A,B,C &F)**

**Title: Research Project**

**School:** Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedicine  
**Teaching Session:** Semester 2  
**Year:** 2020  
**Course Coordinator:** Dr Lauren Kearney, Email: lkearney@usc.edu.au  
**Course Moderator:** Associate Professor Marc Broadbent, Email: mbroadbent@usc.edu.au

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

### 1. What is this course about?

#### 1.1 Description

In this course you will have the opportunity to investigate a significant practice issue through undertaking a research project. This may involve primary research or a systematic review. You will work with an academic supervisor and design and execute your research project. You will report a synthesis of the findings in the form of a 15,000 to 20,000 word dissertation or a journal article for publication together with an explanatory summary.

#### 1.2 Field trips, WIL placements or activities required by professional accreditation

Activity	Details
N/A	N/A

#### 1.3 Course topics

This course consists of a program of independent research that you will undertake under the supervision of academic supervisors. It enables you to explore an area of nursing, midwifery or health practice, education, leadership or management, related to your area of interest. You will critique available literature, design your project and its methods, collect, analyse and interpret the data and synthesise the findings in a report or journal manuscript.

### 2. What level is this course?

700 level Specialised - Demonstrating a specialised body of knowledge and set of skills for professional practice or further learning. Advanced application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts

### 3. What is the unit value of this course?

48 units

#### 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b> On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	<b>Assessment tasks</b> You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	<b>Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping</b> Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Critically evaluate literature in a chosen field/area and to identify gaps	Research dissertation or manuscript	Creative and critical thinkers. Sustainability-focussed.
Define research questions in the context of theoretical framework/models	Research dissertation or manuscript	Knowledgeable.
Select relevant research methods - sampling/selection of participants, methods of data collection, data analysis, and limitations	Research dissertation or manuscript	Creative and critical thinkers. Knowledgeable.
Identify and manage ethical considerations	Research dissertation or manuscript	Ethical.
Undertake data collection and analysis	Research dissertation or manuscript	Ethical. Creative and critical thinkers.
Synthesise findings in a research report either as a dissertation or as a journal article	Research dissertation or manuscript	Empowered.

#### 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

##### 5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Students must be enrolled in SC742 Master of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) or SC420 Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours) or SC423 Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours)  
Instructor Consent Required

##### 5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

##### 5.3 Co-requisites

NUR721 Research in Health Care

##### 5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

##### 5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Prior education and training in research approaches, methods and procedures

#### 6. How am I going to be assessed?

##### 6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

## 6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

The research project involves a constant exchange of ideas and progress planning with your supervisor over the life of the project. The course coordinator will provide the opportunity to touch base through timetabled workshops, to discuss any overarching progress concerns or questions

## 6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Product	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1.	Thesis	Individual	100%	15,000 - 20,000-word dissertation or a journal article and explanatory summary	Last week of last semester of study when enrolled in NUR731F	Online Assignment Submission with Plagiarism check
			100%			

### Assessment Task 1: Research Report (dissertation or manuscript with summary/exegesis)

<b>Goal:</b>	To produce a final report of your research project
<b>Product:</b>	Thesis
<b>Format:</b>	You will negotiate with your supervisor and course coordinator regarding all aspects of the research project and the form of the report, that is, as a dissertation or manuscript for publication. Written dissertation with headings of 15,000 to 20,000 words in length plus appendices and references. <b>OR</b> Manuscript for journal article submission with a summary or exegesis of up to 5,000 words.
<b>Criteria:</b>	You will be assessed on your ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>critically evaluate the literature in a chosen field/area to identify research need and justify the proposed research</li> <li>justify the research questions in the context of a theoretical framework/model;</li> <li>identify and apply a relevant research approach;</li> <li>apply relevant research methods and procedures - sampling/selection of participants, data collection, data analysis, and limitations;</li> <li>address ethical considerations; and</li> <li>Synthesise findings and report in selected format</li> </ul>

## 7. Directed study hours

If enrolling full time, students enrol in all four Research Project courses in one semester. A full-time load involves 48 credit points in one semester. It is anticipated that many students will undertake the Research Project part-time. Students will usually enrol in two Research Project courses per semester if they are part time. At times, circumstances may require variation to this enrolment pattern which will be negotiated with the supervisor and program coordinator. Full-time students are expected to engage in at least 36 hours of self-directed study per week.

This course will be delivered online via technology-enabled learning and teaching (online or face-to-face technology-enabled meetings). When Government guidelines allow, students will be advised when face-to-face on campus meetings can resume.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
USC Sunshine Coast	There is no specific lecture or tutorial content for this course, but all students will meet regularly with their research project supervisor. Meetings will initially utilise the USC videoconferencing facilities to facilitate communication. On campus meetings may resume later in the semester subject to Government guidelines. The schedule of meetings or any supplementary study is to be negotiated directly with the supervisor. Students will attend a workshop in each semester of enrolment. This may be a research seminar series and/or a Research School to present their work.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1 Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

Author	Year	Title	Publisher
Nil	n/a	n/a	n/a

### 8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

## 9. Risk management

Health and Safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

## 10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Students enrolled in the **Master of Nursing** (Clinical Leadership) program will find additional information about the project report and examination procedures in the Masters Research project handbook, available on Blackboard.

Students undertaking this project as part of the **Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours)** or **Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours)** program will find additional information about the project report and examination is provided in the Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours) and Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) Handbook. A progress report completed by the student in conjunction with the supervisor must be submitted to the program coordinator at the end of each semester except for the last semester of study. Details are provided in the Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours) and Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) Handbook. Students undertaking the project as part of an honours program are encouraged to read the USC Bachelor Honours [policy](#) and [procedure](#) documents.

### Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

## 10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

## 10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#). Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)

## 10.5 Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing Support Staff are available to assist on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your success. Student Wellbeing is comprised of professionally qualified staff in counselling, health and disability Services.

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, mental health issue, learning disorder, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide assistance, advocacy and reasonable academic adjustments.

To book an appointment with either service go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or [accessability@usc.edu.au](mailto:accessability@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226

## 10.6 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

## 10.7 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** – Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC South Bank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)