

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING

Postgraduate Diploma | Specialty: Gerontological Nursing

Total Credit Hours: 28

1. Programme Overview

The Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontological Nursing consists of 28 credit hours delivered over one academic year across two semesters. The programme prepares registered nurses with advanced competencies in older-adult care, comprehensive geriatric assessment, management of acute, chronic, and complex health conditions, and evidence-based practice. The study plan integrates theoretical coursework with supervised clinical practice to support safe, holistic, patient-centred gerontological nursing across diverse healthcare settings.

2. Study Plan

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
Semester 1 — Year 1		
GERN501	Health Issues and Nursing Trends for Aging Populations	3
GERN502	Advanced Geriatric Health Assessment	3
GERN503	Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 1	3
GERN504	Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 1 — Clinical	6
Total Credit Hours		15
Semester 2 — Year 1		
NURS599	Research and Evidence-Based Practice Project	4
GERN505	Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 2	3
GERN506	Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 2 — Clinical	6
Total Credit Hours		13
Total Programme Credit Hours		28

3. Course Descriptions

GERN501 — Health Issues and Nursing Trends for Aging Populations (3 CH)

This course provides a focused examination of the key factors influencing the health and well-being of older adults. It reviews demographic trends, disability patterns, and features of the built, social, and environmental context that shape aging experiences and care systems. Students study aging processes, relevant theoretical models, chronic illness, long-term care, end-of-life needs, the financial implications of aging, and the evolving role of the gerontological nurse.

GERN502 — Advanced Geriatric Health Assessment (3 CH)

This course provides advanced knowledge and practical skills for comprehensive assessment of older adults. It examines biological, physiological, psychological, and social changes associated with aging and applies them to evidence-based clinical decision-making. Students develop expertise in geriatric health assessment, communication, interpretation of health histories, physical examinations and diagnostic findings, and formulation of priority nursing diagnoses and holistic care plans.

GERN503 — Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 1 (3 CH)

This course develops advanced competencies in assessing and managing the complex health needs of adults and older adults. Using critical thinking, patient-centered care, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the nursing process, students address health promotion, illness prevention, and acute and chronic conditions affecting the integumentary, respiratory, cardiovascular, renal, and gastrointestinal systems, as well as nutritional requirements, cultural influences, self-management, and chronic illness trajectories.

GERN504 — Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 1 — Clinical (6 CH)

This supervised clinical course provides hands-on practice in caring for adults and older adults with complex health needs, including integumentary, respiratory, cardiovascular, renal, and gastrointestinal disorders. Students apply classroom knowledge in clinical settings and strengthen comprehensive assessment, clinical reasoning, professional judgment, evidence-based interventions, teamwork, evaluation of outcomes, and safe geriatric patient-centered care.

NURS599 — Research and Evidence-Based Practice Project (4 CH)

This course introduces research and evidence-based practice with emphasis on applying current evidence to the care of older adults. Students learn to identify reliable evidence, critically appraise research for quality and applicability, integrate evidence with clinical expertise and patient preferences, use evidence-based guidelines to improve safety and outcomes, consider research ethics involving older adults, and communicate evidence-based recommendations.

GERN505 — Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 2 (3 CH)

This course develops advanced competencies in the assessment and management of complex and critical health conditions affecting adults and older adults. It addresses neurological, endocrine, hematological, and multisystem disorders; comfort, pain, and symptom management; palliative and end-of-life care; mobility and musculoskeletal health; and care across independent living, home care, adult day care,

assisted living, and skilled nursing facilities. Students apply advanced clinical reasoning to individualized, holistic care planning.

GERN506 — Advanced Adult-Gerontology Health and Illness Management 2 — Clinical (6 CH)

This advanced clinical course provides supervised experience caring for adults and older adults with complex neurological, endocrine, haematological, and multisystem conditions. Students also develop competence in mental health issues, immune deficiencies, pain and symptom control, palliative and end-of-life care, and mobility and musculoskeletal disorders across the continuum of care, while strengthening clinical reasoning, decision-making, teamwork, leadership, and safe patient-centred practice.

