

# Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Registered Nurse Prescriber) (PGDipNurs – 120 points)

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the General Regulations for the University.

## 1. Version

- (a) These Regulations came into force on 1 January 2025.
- (b) This Diploma was first offered in 2025.

## 2. Variations

In exceptional circumstances the Amo Matua, Te Kaupeka Oranga | Executive Dean of Health or delegate may approve a personal programme of study which does not conform to these Regulations.

## 3. The structure of the qualification

To qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing a student must:

- (a) be credited with a minimum of 120 points from the courses specified in Schedule C of these regulations.

## 4. Admission to the qualification

To be admitted to the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing a student must have:

- (a) satisfied the Admission Regulations for admission to the University; and
- (b) either:
  - i. qualified for an Aotearoa New Zealand undergraduate Nursing degree with a minimum B Grade Point Average in 300-level courses; and
  - ii. have a recognised nursing qualification requiring at least three years full-time tertiary study with a minimum B Grade Point Average; or
  - iii. have successfully completed a qualifying course(s) prescribed by the Amo Matua, Te Kaupeka Oranga | Executive Dean of Health or delegate; or
  - iv. have been admitted with Academic Equivalent Standing as fulfilling these requirements; and
- (c) have a current Registered Nurse practicing certificate from the Nursing Council of New Zealand | Te Kaunihere Tapuhi o Aotearoa; and
- (d) have three years' equivalent full-time practice as a Registered Nurse in the area in which they intend to prescribe. At least one year of practice must be in New Zealand, and have had access to an approved clinical placement with mentorship by an authorised prescriber (Nurse Practitioner or Medical Practitioner); and
- (e) have been approved as a student by the Amo Matua, Te Kaupeka Oranga | Executive Dean of Health or delegate.

## 5. Subjects

There are no majors, minors, or endorsements for this qualification.

## 6. Time limits

The time limit for this qualification is:

- (a) a maximum completion time of 48 months; and
- (b) a student must complete within the timeframe stipulated by the Nursing Council of New Zealand to be eligible to apply for registration.

## 7. Transfers of credit, substitutions and cross-credits

This qualification adheres to the General Conditions for Credit and Transfer Regulations with the following stipulation:

- (a) With prior approval from the Amo Matua, Te Kaupeka Oranga | Executive Dean of Health or delegate, up to 30 points of equivalent postgraduate level courses may be credited from another school, department, faculty, or from another university or tertiary institute.

## 8. Progression

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University, with the following stipulations:

- (a) A student who fails more than 30 points will be withdrawn from the qualification.
- (b) For progression to NURS664 the student must have access to an approved clinical placement in the area in which they intend to prescribe, with mentorship by an authorised prescriber (Nurse Practitioner or Medical Practitioner).

## 9. Honours, Distinction and Merit

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University and may be awarded with Distinction and Merit.

## 10. Exit and Upgrade Pathways to other Qualifications

- (a) A student who has completed the requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing, but has not yet graduated, may apply to the Amo Matua, Te Kaupeka Oranga | Executive Dean of Health or delegate to be admitted to one of the following qualifications and have credits transferred:
  - i. Master of Advanced Nursing (Nurse Practitioner); or
  - ii. Master of Health Sciences; or
  - iii. Master of Health Sciences Professional Practice.
- (b) Admission to the Master of Advanced Nursing (Nurse Practitioner), or Master of Health Sciences, or Master of Health Sciences Professional Practice will be based on having met the relevant requirements for entry.
- (c) A student for the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing who has not met the requirements for the Diploma, or who wishes to transfer to the Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences, may apply to the Amo Matua, Te Kaupeka Oranga | Executive Dean of Health or delegate to withdraw from the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing and have credits transferred to the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences or the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences.

## Schedule C: Compulsory Courses for the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Registered Nurse Prescriber)

For full course information, go to [courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz](http://courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz)

Course Code	Course Title	Pts	2026	Location	P/C/R/PP/EQ
HLTH661	Advanced Pathophysiology	30	X1	UC Online	P: Subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Academic)
HLTH662	Advanced Health Assessment	30	X3	UC Online	P: Subject to approval from Associate Dean (Academic)
HLTH663	Advanced Pharmacology	30	X1	UC Online	P: Subject to approval by Associate Dean (Academic)
NURS664	RN Prescribing Practicum	30	X3	UC Online	P: HLTH661, HLTH662, HLTH663 and Subject to approval of Associate Dean (Academic).