

CHART A COURSE

Integral part of a smooth operation

Course Graduate certificate in perioperative nursing.

Due, in part, to an ageing nursing population, as well as undergraduate nurses' lack of exposure to perioperative nursing, there's a shortage of nurses trained in this important speciality area.

"A perioperative nurse is responsible for the care of the patient undergoing any surgical intervention, from pre-admission through to discharge home," a course co-ordinator at the Australian College of Nursing, Emma Woodhouse, says.

Jobs are not limited to hospitals: perioperative nurses often work in private clinics, X-ray departments and other environments where surgery takes place.

Suitable for all registered nurses with a year's postgraduate experience in the perioperative environment, this graduate certificate in perioperative nursing includes subjects focused on the patient's journey through day surgery, principles of infection control, and the specialities of anaesthetic, instrument and recovery nursing.

Duration Two semesters full time.

Time Expect to study 15 hours a week.

Where Online, via distance education.

When Next intake February 2013.

Link acn.edu.au.

SUE WHITE