

Frequently asked questions

HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing



Government of
South Australia

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Approved training provider

Is TAFE SA accredited to deliver the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing?

TAFE SA is ANMAC accredited and NMBA approved to deliver the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing. There is a list of NMBA approved providers that can be accessed through the Nursing and Midwifery Website: [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Approved programs of study \(nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au\)](http://nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)

If you would prefer not to click on the link, go to the *Approved programs of study* located under *Accreditation* on the *Nursing and Midwifery Board* website.

Under *General Registration*, click on *Enrolled Nurse Approved programs of study for general registration*. This will take you to the national list of approved providers who are accredited to offer the HLT541 Diploma of Nursing.

Hours of Study

How many hours of study will I need to do each week in the Diploma of Nursing?

The amount of time you need to spend on studying each week will depend on whether you are studying full time or part time, on the mode of study (delivery mode) you have applied for, and your individual learning style.

In general, if you are studying full time, you could expect to study on average 35 – 40 hours per week. This includes your timetabled contact sessions and additional study and research undertaken in your own time. In your own time you will undertake self-directed online learning, preparation for contact sessions, individual study, research, and completion of assessments. There will also be a set number of clinical placement hours that you are required to undertake.

Pathways to University

Can I apply for the Diploma of Nursing and Bachelor of Nursing as a dual offer?

TAFE SA offers courses in partnership with South Australian public universities. With dual offer courses, you are accepted into both a TAFE SA qualification and a connected university program. This means that once you complete your TAFE SA course successfully, you have guaranteed entry – with credit – into university.

More information can be found on the TAFE SA website via the following link:

<https://www.tafesa.edu.au/apply-enrol/uni-pathway-programs>

Transfer within TAFE SA Campuses

I received an offer for the Diploma of Nursing at TAFE SA but I want to attend at another campus.

Once offers into the program have closed and no further applicants are being accepted for the intake you can request for a transfer of campus. Requests are conditional on there being a place available at another campus or within an alternate study mode.

You are encouraged to discuss opportunities for transfer with a Nursing Lecturer **after** you are accepted into the course.

I received an offer for the part-time program in the Diploma of Nursing at TAFE SA but I want to study full-time.

Once offers into the program have closed and no further applicants are being accepted for the intake you can request for a transfer of study mode. Requests are conditional on there being a place available at another campus or within an alternate study mode.

You are encouraged to discuss opportunities for transfer with a Nursing Lecturer **after** you are accepted into the course.

Recognition and Credit Transfer

Can I get information about what recognition I will get before I start?

Specific information regarding recognition is provided at campus level for successful applicants. Appointments to discuss options for recognition are not available prior to entry into the course. Recognition discussions take place with a Nursing Lecturer **after** you are accepted and have enrolled into the course. Recognition is a process where you need to provide evidence to show how you are currently competent in all components of a unit of competency.

You can view specific unit of competency requirements at training.gov.au: [training.gov.au - HLT54121 - Diploma of Nursing](https://training.gov.au/units/HLT54121)

Please note there are fees associated with recognition.

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Nursing at university. What credit will I get in the Diploma of Nursing?

There are currently no formal credit transfer arrangements from the Bachelor of Nursing to the Diploma of Nursing at TAFE SA.

Recognition opportunities may be limited due to the specific evidence requirements of individual units of competency (subjects), and therefore the duration of the course may not be reduced. You would also be required to complete the minimum 400 hours of clinical placement to be assessed against the NMBA Enrolled Nurse Standards for Practice.

If you have undertaken university studies in a Bachelor of Nursing, you are encouraged to discuss opportunities for recognition with a Nursing Lecturer **after** you are accepted and have enrolled into the course. Appointments to discuss options for recognition are not available prior to entry into the course.

You can view specific unit of competency requirements at training.gov.au: [training.gov.au - HLT54121 - Diploma of Nursing](https://training.gov.au/units/HLT54121)

Please note there are fees associated with recognition.

If I complete a Diploma of Nursing at TAFESA, will I get any credit in a Bachelor of Nursing at university?

TAFE SA has arrangements with universities that recognise TAFE SA qualifications and provide credit to university programs. Being eligible for credit does not guarantee that you will be offered a place in a university program. Credit will normally be granted after you have been offered a place. To claim credit, you must formally apply to the university in accordance with their processes.

Further information can be found on the TAFE SA website via the following link:

<https://www.tafesa.edu.au/apply-enrol/uni-pathway-programs/tafe-to-uni-credit-transfer>

I have completed a Diploma of Nursing, but the numbers are different, I think it is an older qualification. Will I get any credit or recognition?

If you have completed a HLT54115 Diploma of Nursing, your qualification is recognised by AHPRA/NMBA and there are some units that have been deemed equivalent to those in the latest HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing qualification. This means that there may be some credit transfer you can apply for based on your previous studies in HLT54115. You may also have experience that could be considered and be able to apply for some recognition.

If you have completed a HLT51612 Diploma of Nursing, your qualification is recognised by AHPRA/NMBA but is not deemed equivalent to the latest HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing qualification. This means that there is no credit transfer or recognition available based on your previous studies in HLT51612. You may have experience that could be considered to apply for some recognition.

Health Impairment/Medical Conditions/Identified additional needs

Can I still do the course if I have a health impairment?

The role of an Enrolled Nurse is a demanding one, which will require a level of physical fitness and health to undertake tasks to the competency level required. A range of supports are offered by TAFE SA to assist you with your studies and reasonable adjustments are made where possible. However while as a training organisation we can make reasonable adjustments to some components of the qualification requirements, there remain areas of the qualification that must be met to determine competence. It is recommended that you read the Course Brochure and Self-Assessment Checklist to help you make an informed decision about the suitability of the course for you.

An *'impairment'*, in relation to a person, means the person has a physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder (including substance abuse or dependence) that detrimentally affects or is likely to detrimentally affect... the student's capacity to undertake clinical training...as part of the approved program of study in which the student is enrolled; or ... arranged by an education provider.' (Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010 Version: 1.3.2020)

If you have any known medical factors/conditions, including medication or treatment being taken/given in relation to the condition, that may affect you and/or be a safety issue while you are on placement, or undertaking on-campus sessions, you will be required to provide a statement/medical clearance regarding your current fitness to practise in the role of a student Enrolled Nurse from your treating health practitioner.

Will I be able to register as a nurse if I have a health impairment?

This will be determined by the Nursing and Midwifery Board when you apply for registration.

The following statement is directly from the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010 Version: 1.3.2020

“(1) A National Board may decide an individual is not a suitable person to hold general registration in a health profession if—

(a) in the Board's opinion, the individual has an impairment that would detrimentally affect the individual's capacity to practise the profession to such an extent that it would or may place the safety of the public at risk;”

Reference Links:

Vocational Placement Student Information Booklet: <https://www.tafesa.edu.au/apply-enrol/admissions-criteria/vocational-placement-information-package>

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law – Schedule 2, Sections 5 & 55
<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/What-We-Do/Legislation.aspx>

Re-entry and Refresher Programs

I am an enrolled nurse and have current registration with AHPRA/NMBA but would like to upgrade my skills and get the latest qualification.

TAFE SA does not offer an Enrolled Nursing Refresher, Re-entry or Up-grade program. You will need to apply for a position in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing to upgrade your qualification. You are encouraged to discuss opportunities for recognition with a Nursing Lecturer **after** you are accepted and have enrolled into the course.

Recognition opportunities may be limited due to specific evidence requirements of individual units of competency (subjects), and therefore the duration of the course may not be significantly reduced.

You apply for a position in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing through the TAFE SA website: [Diploma of Nursing - TAFE SA](#)

I am an enrolled nurse and I do not hold current registration with AHPRA/NMBA, what can I do?

TAFE SA does not offer an Enrolled Nursing Refresher or Re-entry program. It is recommended that you contact the NMBA for further information regarding the *Registration standard: Recency of practice*. You will find information on the NMBA website: [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Recency of practice \(nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au\)](http://nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)

Alternatively, you could apply for a position in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing. All requirements of the course would need to be successfully completed to be eligible to apply for re-registration with AHPRA. You are encouraged to discuss opportunities for recognition with a Nursing Lecturer **after** you are accepted and have enrolled into the course.

Recognition opportunities may be limited due to the specific evidence requirements of individual units of competency (subjects) in the qualification, and therefore the duration of the course may not be significantly reduced.

You apply for a position in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing through the TAFE SA website: [Diploma of Nursing - TAFE SA](#)

Internationally Qualified Nurses

I have an overseas nursing qualification and want to work in Australia, what do I need to do?

The TAFE SA Nursing Program does not assess overseas qualifications. Anyone wanting to work as a registered nurse, enrolled nurse, nurse practitioner or midwife in Australia must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). If you wish to have your qualification assessed for transfer, you will need to apply through the NMBA.

Further information and instruction can be found on the NMBA website:

<https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-and-Endorsement/International/Immigration-and-employment.aspx>

On this page, click on the link under 'More Information' for specific detail for applying for registration with the NMBA.

AHPRA/NMBA conditions and supervised work experience/practice

I have a letter from AHPRA/NMBA granting me provisional registration as an Enrolled Nurse but I have to undertake supervised work experience. Does TAFE SA offer this?

TAFE SA is accredited and approved to offer the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing. TAFE SA do not offer an *Enrolled Nursing Refresher or Re-entry* program. Opportunities to complete hours of supervised work experience/practice alone are not provided.

You can apply for a position in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing to undertake the qualification through the TAFE SA website: [Diploma of Nursing - TAFE SA](#)

AHPRA will have assigned you a Regulatory Officer and provided you with an email and phone contact for this person in their letter. It is recommended that you contact that person to seek further advice.

I have a letter from AHPRA/NMBA granting me provisional registration as an Enrolled Nurse but I have to undertake study in certain units and supervised work experience. Does TAFE SA offer this?

TAFE SA is accredited and approved to offer the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing. TAFE SA do not offer an *Enrolled Nursing Refresher or Re-entry* program. Opportunities to complete hours of supervised work experience/practice are not provided.

You can apply for a position in the HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing to undertake the qualification through the TAFE SA website: [Diploma of Nursing - TAFE SA](#)

AHPRA will have assigned you a Regulatory Officer and provided you with an email and phone contact for this person in their letter. It is recommended that you contact that person to seek further advice.