

UCD SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS



Graduate Diploma Nursing (Critical Care: Cardiovascular)

The UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems provides graduate programmes to prepare nurses and midwives to excel as care-givers and as leaders. The School has a reputation for academic excellence, quality teaching and innovative research, ensuring that students gain valuable knowledge and specialist skills which are current, relevant, marketable and responsive to current and future community health care needs. Many of the School's graduates have gone on to assume key clinical and leadership positions in their discipline, both nationally and internationally.

The modular structure of the School's programmes affords great flexibility and allows students to undertake certain programmes at their own pace. In addition to well established methods of teaching and learning, the School offers a range of innovative and interactive approaches through blended-learning techniques such as online discussion boards and Wikis. Two 15-credit core modules on the Graduate Diploma Programmes are delivered using a blended learning approach which combines face-to-face facilitation with online discovery learning. This blended learning approach is designed to enhance the overall quality of the students' learning experience and may also reduce the requirement of classroom attendance. However, while this is a challenging innovation and students are required to be motivated and to work independently and become critical thinkers, we do offer continuous support throughout the programme of study. Familiarity with using a word processing program and access to a computer with internet connection are pre-requisites. School programmes are built on a sound interdisciplinary base, enabling professional nurses, midwives and allied healthcare professionals to participate as full members of the healthcare team.

Academics have strong links with local and regional health service providers, including major hospitals and community-based health services. Many nursing, midwifery and medical clinicians also contribute regularly to our teaching. We invite you to consult the programme descriptions on the following pages for more details and to contact the relevant members of the School's academic and administration staff (details available at www.ucd.ie/nmhs) who will be pleased to provide you with further information or to answer your questions.

Graduate Diploma Nursing (Critical Care: Cardiovascular)

Who is the programme for?

This Programme is for nurses who have a primary degree (or equivalent) in nursing or a related discipline with at least one year's post-registration experience. The Programme is designed to expand the knowledge and clinical skills of nurses who already are engaged in the care of people within the cardiovascular critical care environment. Candidates must be employed in a coronary care unit (CCU), or a cardiac catheterisation laboratory, or cardiac ward or a combined critical care unit at the commencement of and for the full duration of the programme.

What is the programme about?

Cardiovascular critical-care nursing requires an advanced knowledge base, skilled assessment, prompt intervention and ongoing evaluation. This programme is designed to provide the nurse with an opportunity to develop, enhance and maintain these specialist skills required to care for those critically ill with cardiovascular disease. It also provides students with an opportunity for personal growth and professional development.

Programme aims

This programme aims to enable students to develop a new knowledge and a greater understanding of the principles and theories, which underpin the various aspects of critical-care nursing particularly in relation to cardiovascular care, including nursing theory and theory in the bio-psychosocial sciences.



What will I learn?

The emphasis throughout the programme is on the practical application of specialist nursing knowledge and skills in cardiovascular critical-care contexts. The programme comprises 6 credit-bearing modules,

How will I benefit?

This programme will enhance career prospects and provide the building blocks for lifelong self-directed learning. It will provide key knowledge and the critical skills required to be a more effective clinician and to innovate and lead in cardiovascular critical-care nursing practice.

Teaching methods / Information technology

A wide range of innovative teaching and assessment methods are used, including lectures, workshops, tutorials, online media, debate, case presentations and clinical assessments. Through the curriculum structure,

students are enabled to apply their theoretical knowledge in the clinical setting. Apart from their designated clinical placements in the School's partner teaching hospitals, students remain attached to their own cardiac critical-care unit for the duration of the training programme.

Programme structure

Running over one academic-year, this two-semester specialist training programme consists of six modules of study. The modular structure offers flexibility and ease-of-access in order to best meet the educational needs of the students.

Core modules & European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

Module	Credits	Semester
Research Methodologies	15	1
Cardiovascular Disease	7.5	1
Nursing Altered Cardiac Function	7.5	2
Theoretical Bases of Nursing	15	2
Cardiac Rehabilitation and Heart Failure	7.5	2
Clinical Practicum	7.5	1 & 2

Total = 60 ECTS

Careers/where can I go?

With the Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Critical Care: Cardiovascular) students are have the requisite knowledge and clinical skills to work in a wide variety of cardiovascular care settings, both in Ireland and internationally.

General requirements:

- Applicants must have their name entered on to the Active file of the Register of Nurses maintained by An Bord Altranais
- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree (Level 8) in nursing, or in a subject allied to nursing or health
- Applicants must be currently working in clinical practice in a cardiovascular critical-care setting

Documents to be submitted with your application:

- Academic transcript(s) including date and grading of degree award (non- UCD graduates only) & notarised English translations where relevant
- Photocopy of current An Bord Altranais registration and PIN
- Copy of Birth Certificate or personal pages of a current passport
- Completed Professional Reference Form

available at www.ucd.ie/nmhs/taughtgraduateprogrammes/howtoapply

- Evidence of proficiency in English language, where the applicant's first language is not English
- Employer Declaration Form
- Clinical Competence Assessor Nomination Form signed by the nominee

