



## COURSE OUTLINE

# NUR231 Drug Therapy

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2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

USC Moreton Bay

USC Caboolture

USC Fraser Coast

USC Gympie

**ON CAMPUS**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

*Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.*

## 1. What is this course about?

### 1.1. Description

This course introduces you to basic pathophysiology and fundamental principles of pharmacology in order to understand how drugs work and interact with the human body. This course is crucial in promoting safe medication administration, reducing harm and promoting the Quality Use of Medicines because nurses and midwives care for patients receiving complex medication regimes. You will be able to know and apply professional, ethical and legal codes and standards to decision making and practice in medication administration.

### 1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
<b>ON CAMPUS</b>			
<b>Lecture</b> – Online	1hr	Week 1	9 times
<b>Tutorial/Workshop</b>	3hrs	Week 1	9 times

### 1.3. Course Topics

- Pathophysiology and drug action
- Pharmacology and drug reactions in the human body
- Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
- Application of pharmacological principles to Quality Use of Medicines (QUM)
- Person centred approach to decision-making and safe medication practice
- Professional, codes and standards of practice in safe medication administration including:
  - Australian National Strategy for the Quality Use of Medicines
  - National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
  - National Competency Standards for the Registered Midwife
  - Registered Nurse Standards for Practice

## 2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

## 3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

## 4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Synthesise and apply knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics and the quality use of medicines to inform clinical decision-making and safe medication practice.	Knowledgeable
2 Know and apply professional, ethical and legal codes and standards to clinical decision-making and practice for safe medication administration.	Knowledgeable Ethical
3 Use pharmacological resources and interpret reliable clinical evidence to inform sound clinical decision-making.	Knowledgeable Creative and critical thinker
4 Demonstrate the principles of equity, self-determination, rights and access for individuals and groups through the provision of patient-centred information about medication treatment options, benefits and associated risks.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical

## 5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

### 5.1. Pre-requisites

LFS112 or HLT100 and enrolled in Program SC391, SC393, SC394 or SC392

### 5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

### 5.3. Anti-requisites

PAR231

### 5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

You will need background knowledge of how the body functions normally (Introductory Bioscience or Anatomy and Physiology) in addition to an introduction to nursing assessment and nursing care of abnormal body functioning.

## 6. How am I going to be assessed?

### 6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

### 6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early assessment is offered in week 3 to provide you with the opportunity for feedback on your academic progress, including identifying the need for additional support. The task is not a substantial assessment and is weighted at 20%.

### 6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Written Piece	Individual	20%	3.5-hour online learning module and 600-word reflection	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Case Study	Individual	30%	4-hour online learning module and 1,500 word written piece	Week 6	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Written Piece	Individual	50%	2,000 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

#### All - Assessment Task 1: Written Piece

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of completing the NPS MedicineWise medication safety training course is to provide you with the opportunity to engage with an industry-specific continuing education program designed to develop your understanding of medication safety. The goal of writing a reflection about the learning from the module is for you to consider the application of the safe practice concepts underpinning drug therapy professional practice.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Written Piece	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This task requires you to create an account with NPS MedicineWise and complete the medication safety training course and then write a reflection. Full information will be provided on Blackboard.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Submission of the certificate of completion for the NPS MedicineWise medications safety training course
	2	The description of the learning from the NPS MedicineWise medication safety training course is specific to safe medication administration concepts from the course
	3	The reflection of the learning from the NPS MedicineWise medication safety training course is deep and insightful
	4	Application of reflection from the learning from the NPS MedicineWise medication safety training course to professional practice
	5	Reflection on professional practice
	6	Evidence used wisely as the basis for arguments and justification of recommendation, coherent written expression and presentation. Referencing style conforms to APA style used at USC

### All - Assessment Task 2: Case Study

<b>GOAL:</b>	The goal of completing the NPS MedicineWise national standard medication charts course is to provide you with the opportunity to engage with an industry-specific continuing education program designed to develop your understanding of the use of and safety aspects of the national standard medication chart. The goal of this task is to integrate and apply knowledge of pathophysiology and safe administration of medication to a patient scenario. This will also incorporate your creative and critical thinking in the application of pharmacotherapeutics and safety concepts into the patient scenario. You will consider the professional, ethical and legal codes, and practice standards relevant to decision-making and safe medication practice.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Case Study	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	This task requires you to create an account with NPS MedicineWise and complete the national standard medication chart course. You will then be provided with a case study specific to nursing or midwifery that requires a written response. Full information will be provided on Blackboard.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Application of pathophysiological and pharmacotherapy knowledge to the case study, specific to safe medication administration. 1
	2	Application of the quality use of medicines concepts to the case study, specific to person-centred care. 1 2
	3	Application of Nursing or Midwifery codes and standards to underpin decision making and safe medication practice. 2
	4	Evidence-based argument and justification of decisions, coherent written expression and presentation. 1
	5	Referencing style conforms to APA referencing style used at USC. 1 3

### All - Assessment Task 3: Written Piece

<b>GOAL:</b>	In your future role as a nurse or midwife you will be required to interpret and use pharmacotherapeutic information and reliable clinical evidence to support patients or the pregnant woman in the quality use of medicines. You will interpret and use evidence to inform safe and comprehensive practice when designing person-centred care and managing a medication regimen.	
<b>PRODUCT:</b>	Written Piece	
<b>FORMAT:</b>	You will research a clinical case and associated pharmacotherapy and provide a written response. Full information will be provided on Blackboard.	
<b>CRITERIA:</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Learning Outcome assessed</b>
	1	Application of pathophysiological concepts to justify clinical decision-making. 1 3
	2	Application of pharmacotherapeutic concepts to explain safe medication practice. 1 3
	3	Application of the principles of the quality use of medicine concepts when describing drug mechanisms of action, adverse-effects, benefits, risks and management of pharmacotherapy using person-centred approaches 1 2 3
	4	Evidence-based argument and justification of decisions, coherent written expression and presentation. 1 3
	5	Referencing style conforms to Harvard referencing style used at USC. 3

## 7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

## 8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

### 8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Bryant, B & Knights, K	2019	Pharmacology for Health Professionals	Elsevier

### 8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

## 9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

## 10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

### 10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

### 10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

### 10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

### 10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au).

### 10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 1226.

## 10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email [AccessAbility@usc.edu.au](mailto:AccessAbility@usc.edu.au) or call 07 5430 2890.

## 10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

## 10.8. General Enquiries

### In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

**Tel:** +61 7 5430 2890

**Email:** [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)