

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Graduate Diploma in Child, Family, and Community Nursing

The following pages outline some of the more frequently asked questions, including critical dates, to help you plan your studies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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### Applications

Course applications for mid-year entry open on the 1st of May, and 2025 applications open on the 1st of August. This is the link for all applications:

[Apply directly - Postgraduate, Study with us, La Trobe University.](#)

To qualify for entry to the course, you must be a registered Nurse and Midwife and have at least one year of nursing and one year of midwifery experience (two full-time years).

You must also have a confirmed clinical place in a Maternal and Child Health service.

Information about how to apply for a clinical place is available from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) website. Here is the link to the MAV website – [MCH Resources](#)

Most places at La Trobe are Commonwealth-supported places (CSP), with some fee-paying places available.

### Timetable

Online contact with your lecturers will occur through regular scheduled online “workshops” (via Zoom), where we can talk in real time. Although these sessions are recorded, it is best to attend the live session. Generally, they will be held on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm or from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

There is a 3-day workshop at the city campus in the first week of each semester. Sessions are recorded.

### Semester dates

Semester 1 –

04/03/2024 (Week 10) – 31/05/2024 (Week 22) – clinical placement from 01/04/2024.

Semester 2 –

29/07/2024 (Week 32) – 25/10/2024 (Week 44).

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### Course structure

The Graduate Diploma in Child, Family, and Community Nursing comprises 120 credit points – 90 credit points of core subjects and 30 credit points of electives.

Core subjects in semester 1 (weeks 10-22) are:

- NSM4MCH – Maternal and Child Health
- NSM4CCH – Community Child Health
- NSM5CAF – Nurturing Child and Family

In semester 2 (weeks 32-44), you will enrol in

- NSM5COM – Complex Care in Maternal and Child Health
- Electives, unless you have credit for them

### Electives

Elective options may include :

- [NSM4REM – Research and Evidence in Midwifery](#) (15 credit points, week 06-26) commences early.
- [NSM4IPH – Indigenous Perinatal Health subject](#) (15 credit points, week 27-44) commences early
- [NSM5RES – Research in Nursing and Midwifery](#) (30 credit points, semester 1 or 2)
- [NSM5RFN – Research in Nursing](#) (15 credit points, semester 1 or 2)

Or external electives such as:

- [Nurse Immuniser Program – La Trobe, or The University of Melbourne](#)
- [The Australasian Lactation Course](#) (or other approved lactation studies)
- [Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health \(Nursing\) course](#)
- [Solihull - contact Helen Stevens for information](#)
- Other approved postgraduate subjects.

### Credit for electives

You can apply for credit for up to 30 credit points if you have completed postgraduate studies within the last eight years, which may include the Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery.

### Clinical experience requirements

NSM4MCH (semester 1)		
Universal MCH (UMCH) May include: Childcare centre (8) Early intervention agency (8) EPC Day stay/lactation (8)	140	May commence from week 14 (1 <sup>st</sup> April)
Total subject hours	140	EPC = Early Parenting Centre
NSM5COM (Semester 2)		
Universal MCH (UMCH) May include: Family support services (8) EPC or EMCH (24)	140	Mid-year entry – may commence from week 36 (26 <sup>th</sup> August)
Total subject hours	140	EMCH = Enhanced Maternal and Child Health

### Enrolment

There are several ways to complete the course, with different entry and exit points and different patterns of placement.

NSM4MCH and NSM5COM are the two placement subjects.

Full-time (1 year)	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	NSM4MCH (30 credit points) NSM5CAF (15 credit points) NSM4CCH (15 credit points)	NSM5COM (30 credit points) Elective (15 credit points) Elective (15 credit points)

Part-time (18-months)	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	NSM4MCH (30 credit points) Elective (15 credit points)	NSM5COM (30 credit points) Elective (15 credit points)
Year 2	NSM5CAF (15 credit points) NSM4CCH (15 credit points)	mid-year graduation

Part-time (2 years)	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	NSM4MCH (30 credit points)	Elective (15 credit points) Elective (15 credit points)
Year 2	NSM5CAF (15 credit points) NSM4CCH (15 credit points)	NSM5COM (30 credit points)

MID-YEAR INTAKE Part-time (18-months)	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1		NSM5COM (30 credit points)
Year 2	NSM4MCH (30 credit points) NSM5CAF (15 credit points) NSM4CCH (15 credit points)	Elective (15 credit points) Elective (15 credit points)

MID-YEAR INTAKE Part-time (2 years)	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1		NSM5COM (30 credit points)
Year 2	NSM5CAF (15 credit points) NSM4CCH (15 credit points)	Elective (15 credit points) Elective (15 credit points)
Year 3	NSM4MCH (30 credit points)	