SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Southern Cross University is an innovative, research intensive university providing inspirational learning experiences for its students, through high quality scholarship.

The School of Health and Human Sciences aims to produce capable and creative health practitioners, researchers and scientists, and works with professional associations to design and deliver contemporary courses that are industry-relevant.

The School is committed to providing education for practitioners, offering inter-professional practice and learning that embraces the expanding definition of health care work.

Advances in health science research are fostering a broader understanding of health care and an insistence that it include prevention of disease and the promotion of healthy behaviour.

SCU postgraduate students can choose pathways in some degrees that focus on preventative health areas.

At the same time within the field of health care, there is increased attention being paid to treating and supporting those suffering from diseases we can neither prevent nor cure.

Both of these health streams offer growing opportunities for well-qualified postgraduates to find employment in more senior roles in a wide variety of fields.

In the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2012 national report, Southern Cross University received a rating of ‘above world standard’ in the specific research field of nursing.

(For more information visit: scu.edu.au/era)

We invite you to explore our full range of postgraduate course offerings at scu.edu.au/courses

Postgraduate degrees by research

In addition to its postgraduate coursework degrees, Southern Cross University offers Masters by Thesis (Masters) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) research degrees. These are referred to as higher degrees by research (HDR) and do not include prescribed units of study (coursework). Candidates select a research topic which is of particular relevance to their professional and/or personal interests. The research aims to increase human knowledge and understanding.

The HDR program focuses on independent research, conducted under the supervision of a principal and a supporting supervisor, which results in a thesis that is then sent out for external and independent examination. It includes identifying a research topic and methodology, collection and analysis of data, and the development of a thesis.

Southern Cross University’s Research Training Unit offers advice and support to anyone who is considering HDR study. It provides quality assurance across the academic cycle of postgraduate research candidature – from recruitment, to supervisor selection and supported progress, through to examination.

Enquiries and applications are welcome at any time throughout the year.

Contact
Research Training Unit
W: scu.edu.au/research
T: 02 6620 3520
E: research@scu.edu.au
The Master of Advanced Health Practice has been developed for individuals with a background in a health science discipline including nursing and allied health professions. The course is focused on professional development for current health practitioners, giving them a broad overview of the latest developments in various fields.

The course is practical and allows students to build on their existing experience. It enables students to pursue their interests through the choice of specialisations across a range of advanced health practice areas. Alternatively, the degree can be completed as a generic course of study without a specialisation by undertaking a selection of units in accordance with the award rules. The course content, activities, flexible delivery options and assessment methods reflect the needs of busy professionals.

Major areas of study
Specialisations include:
- Allied Health
- Lifestyle Medicine
- Mental Health
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Perioperative Nurse Surgeon’s Assistant

The degree can also be completed without a specialisation by undertaking a selection of units in accordance with the award rules.

Please note that specialisations and units are offered subject to availability.

Teaching methods
This course is delivered online using computer-assisted technologies. There are no on-campus attendance requirements. Units have a dedicated website on the MySCU online environment, which includes unit learning sites that are accessible upon enrolment. Academic staff are available by phone and email for student consultation. Students are expected to have computer and internet access.

Your career
This course gives health practitioners from diverse backgrounds including nursing and allied health professions, the opportunity to expand the range and scope of their knowledge of health service delivery, by undertaking studies in areas of interest to them. Completion of the degree provides graduates with enhanced career opportunities within primary health care, community outreach organisations, area health services, professional associations, hospitals, and local, state and federal policy-making agencies.

Summary
Location: Distance Education
Intake: Session 1 and 2
Duration: Master – 1.5 years full-time or 3 years part-time
Early exit points: Graduate Diploma; Graduate Certificate Subject to successful completion of the required units
Total units: Master – 12; Grad Dip – 8; Grad Cert – 4
Fees: Visit scu.edu.au/fees
The Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology is a professional-entry-level degree that aims to produce graduates who will be eligible to register as an accredited exercise physiologist (AEP). Accredited exercise physiologists can provide exercise testing, preventative exercise programs and specialist rehabilitation exercise interventions for people living with chronic diseases, disability or injury.

The course includes clinical placements for students to gain practical experience in cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal, metabolic, neuromuscular and immunological rehabilitation exercise.

Professional recognition
The Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology is accredited by Exercise and Sport Science Australia (ESSA). Graduates will be eligible to apply for registration with ESSA as an accredited exercise physiologist (AEP).

Clinical exercise physiology is an allied health profession. Clinical exercise physiology services are currently recognised under private health insurance schemes and under Medicare’s Chronic Disease Management plan, making AEPs eligible to register with Medicare as providers. Check the Medicare website for the latest information about this allied health initiative.

Professional placement
The course includes 360 hours of clinical placement for students to put theory into practice. This occurs in the SCU Health Clinic on campus, seeing a wide range of clients with chronic conditions, as well as at external locations such as hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, sporting clubs and aged care facilities. Inter-professional development is also encouraged and exercise physiology students may gain experience working with other allied health students.

Major areas of study
The course provides an advanced understanding of the theoretical and practical components of clinical exercise physiology.

Teaching methods
The method of teaching may vary from unit to unit. On-campus students experience a variety of teaching approaches including lectures, tutorials, online activities, laboratory sessions and video-linked or podcast virtual classes. Units are delivered by accredited exercise physiologists and academics who possess diverse professional experience.

Equipment and facilities
Clinical exercise physiology students access specialist facilities including a state-of-the-art exercise physiology clinic supported by laboratories for strength and conditioning, motion analysis, functional anatomy and biomechanics. The SCU Health Clinic provides facilities for students to undertake clinical practice under the supervision and guidance of academic staff.

Your career
Graduates are suited to employment in various settings including private practice with referrals from GPs, rehabilitation centres, community health, multidisciplinary allied health clinics, workplace health centres, hospitals and aged care facilities.

Clinical exercise physiology is a relatively new allied health profession. Accredited exercise physiologists work in chronic disease prevention and management, and rehabilitation services in rural and metropolitan areas.

Summary
Location: Lismore
Intake: Session 1 and 2
Duration: 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time*
Total units: 16
Fees: Some Commonwealth supported places are available

*To complete the course in this duration, students will be required to study over three sessions.
Cairns-based osteopath Sarah Hughes says that studying osteopathy was the best decision she ever made. She was planning to become a naturopath, but after discovering a love for hands-on therapy, she joined Southern Cross University’s first cohort of osteopathy students.

“My clinical supervisor at SCU told me about the Cairns Clinic job. I came up here for a holiday, spent a day observing in the clinic and taking part in clinical discussions and was offered a job straight away. It was my graduating year.”

Sarah is working at an osteopathic clinic registered with the Australian Osteopathic Association.

“It was full-time work from the word ‘go’. I was booked solid from the beginning. I treat people from all over the Tablelands, from Cairns and Cooktown, and all the surrounding areas – big bulky miners to small elderly women. It’s different every day.

“I felt quite prepared, but it was daunting at the same time. I feel like I was given a pretty good leg up by SCU. I can still contact my old lecturers for advice. I’ve never been told to go away; they’ve always had an open ear. It’s just nice to feel like you’ve got that community.”
Osteopathy is a holistic system of diagnosis and manual therapy used to treat musculoskeletal problems and other functional disorders of the body. In Australia, osteopaths are registered primary care practitioners.

The Master of Osteopathic Medicine is designed to develop a critical evaluation of the theory and practice of osteopathy and to produce primary care health practitioners who are able to solve complex problems and think rigorously and independently. The degree is built on a contemporary professional model that integrates the principles of evidence-based practice with a holistic paradigm of patient-centred health care.

The Master of Osteopathic Medicine is the second stage of a professional-entry-level program that aims to produce graduates who are eligible to register as practitioners of osteopathic medicine.

The first stage is the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences (with a double major — Osteopathic Studies/Human Structure and Function) at Southern Cross University (or equivalent).

### Major areas of study

Students undertake studies in osteopathic medicine, including advanced diagnosis and management of complex problems; complete clinical practice under supervision in internal and external health facilities; and engage in a research project.

### Professional recognition

The course is accredited by the Osteopathy Board of Australia. Students who graduate from the course are eligible to apply for registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Graduates of the course are eligible for professional membership with the Australian Osteopathic Association (AOA) and Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia (COCA). Osteopathy is an allied health profession. Osteopathic services are currently recognised under private health insurance schemes and under Medicare’s Chronic Disease Management plan, making Osteopaths eligible to register with Medicare as providers. Check the Medicare website for the latest information about this allied health initiative.

### Professional placement

The Master of Osteopathic Medicine includes substantial supervised clinical practicums in both internal University health care clinics and in external health clinics and services. Relationships with community practitioners are developed during the course giving graduates opportunities to establish their career.

### Teaching methods

The osteopathic medicine units use a student-centred curriculum in which problem-based activities and studies, as well as case discussion, engender independent and team-based learning. Clinical practice is a mentored learning experience in both real and simulated patient encounters. The research component is self-directed and supervised to achieve the outcome of developing critical thinkers and readers of research. Reflective practitioner skills are integrated into the curriculum to develop interpersonal and lifelong learning characteristics.

### Equipment and facilities

Osteopathy students access clinical facilities which include fully equipped electronic resources, medical technology, motion analysis laboratories, and anatomy laboratories. The SCU Health Clinic provides facilities for students to undertake clinical practice under the supervision and guidance of academic staff.

### Your career

The Master of Osteopathic Medicine aims to produce graduates who are eligible to register as practitioners of osteopathic medicine.

Southern Cross University is seeking to increase the number of graduate osteopaths in order to meet community demand.

### Summary

- **Location:** Lismore
- **Intake:** Session 1
- **Duration:** 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time
- **Total units:** 16
- **Fees:** Some Commonwealth supported places are available
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DIABETES EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Management is a one-year part-time course designed to qualify nurses and other allied health professionals as diabetes educators. The course provides targeted professional development in the specialty field of diabetes education.

Major areas of study
Students gain knowledge and skills within the areas of primary health, chronic disease, teaching, management and leadership, research, client self-management and counselling. They also gain an in-depth knowledge of medications related to diabetes and other comorbidities.

Professional recognition
This course is accredited by the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA). Graduates are encouraged to pursue credentialling by the ADEA. Credentialled graduates will be entitled to use the professional title ‘CDE’ (Credentialled Diabetes Educator) making them eligible to register with Medicare as providers under Medicare’s Chronic Disease Management plan. Check the Medicare website for the latest information about this allied health initiative. CDEs are also able to sign patients onto the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS). Re-credentialling is required every three years.

Professional placement
Students are required to undertake 50 hours of clinical placement within a recognised diabetes service with, as a minimum, a credentialled diabetes educator as a mentor.

Teaching methods
All units in this course are delivered via distance education with a compulsory three-day workshop for each unit held at the Gold Coast campus. Distance education students experience a highly interactive study mode that strives to promote collaboration and a sense of community. The method of teaching may vary from unit to unit and may include podcasts or video-linked lectures, electronic study materials, workshops and online discussion forums.

Your career
Diabetes educators may work within a tertiary health centre, or within primary health. They can become self-employed and work in private practice, or they can work alongside other allied health providers such as dietitians, podiatrists, physiotherapists and psychologists.

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location: Distance Education*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intake: Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 1 year part-time only**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total units: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees: Visit scu.edu.au/fees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students attend a compulsory three-day workshop at the Gold Coast campus for each unit studied.

**Students will undertake 2 units per session over 2 sessions.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Assessment methods
Students complete a variety of assessment tasks depending on the course and units undertaken. These may include written assignments, oral presentations, laboratory and field research projects, reports and case-based scenarios, clinical skills testing and self-performance evaluations, and video or audio presentations. Some courses and units also include written, clinical and practical examinations.

Learning resources
MySCU is our students’ point of entry to a range of online services and resources that support study and student life. The portal includes unit learning sites and information sites where students can access resources, communication tools and useful links that are integral to their studies.

The web-based study environment Blackboard Learn delivers an advanced online learning environment for students and lecturers to communicate and collaborate through virtual meeting spaces, classrooms, and discussion boards. They can share files, presentations and applications. If a tutorial or lecture is recorded, students can view it afterwards.

Learning materials include the provision of unit information guides, study guides and readings. Students may need to purchase or access prescribed text books.

The SCU library provides a wide range services including librarian assistance, print and electronic resources, a document delivery service, catalogues, databases, ebooks, ereadings, and full-text journal literature.

Course structure
The availability of majors and units may vary at each campus location. Unit availabilities are published for each study period and vary from year to year. Some units may be only available by distance education.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The School of Health and Human Sciences at Southern Cross University is developing face-to-face and online continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities for qualified health professionals and practitioners to gain CPD points and higher qualifications in their interest area.

CPD has become a mandatory activity for most health professionals.

The School of Health and Human Sciences’ CPD is of a standard that will be recognised by most health registration authorities towards ongoing accreditation and registration.

Further information
School of Health and Human Sciences
W: scu.edu.au/healthcpd
T: 02 6626 9585
E: healthcpd@scu.edu.au

Your previous work or study
Your previous learning experiences relevant to one or more units in your chosen course may help you cut months or years off your degree.

Recognition of formal and non-formal learning
Credit may be awarded to a student for formal learning (gained through full or partial achievement of an accredited qualification or course) or non-formal learning (that takes place through a non-accredited course or program of learning) completed at Southern Cross University or in other learning settings in Australia and/or overseas.

Recognition of informal learning
Credit may be awarded on the basis of current informal learning (that takes place through work, social, family or leisure activities).

To help you identify how much credit you may receive for your related prior learning, the University has evaluated the learning within some Australian and overseas qualifications/courses, which are available at the SCU Pathways website.

Visit: scu.edu.au/scupathways

If your previous study or educational institution is not listed, we still encourage you to apply for advanced standing because you might still be eligible.

An application for advanced standing must be submitted so we can assess your prior learning. Please apply for advanced standing at the same time as you apply for admission into this course, because the amount of credit awarded will determine the sequence of units you will study.

Visit: scu.edu.au/advancedstanding

International students
Southern Cross University welcomes applications from international students. However this brochure is intended for use by Australian citizens and permanent residents only and should not be relied upon by international students. Brochures and information specifically for international students can be obtained from SCU International.

W: scu.edu.au/international
E: intoff@scu.edu.au
Freecall: 1800 626 481
T: 02 6620 3876

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online direct to the University

For further information visit:
W: scu.edu.au/healthscience
E: futurestudent@scu.edu.au
Freecall: 1800 626 481
For full details go to: scu.edu.au/howtoapply
For further course information visit: scu.edu.au/courses