

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 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.



Dr Catina Adams, Course Coordinator,
Child, Family & Community Nursing
E: catina.adams@latrobe.edu.au

Applications

Course applications for mid-year entry open on the 1st of April, and 2026 applications open on the 1st of August. This is the link for all applications: [Apply directly - Postgraduate, Study with us, La Trobe University.](#)

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). Applicants with at least five years in either Nursing or Midwifery may also be admitted. 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.

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 are:

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

In semester 2, you will enrol in

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

Timetable

Online contact with your lecturers will occur through regular scheduled online “lectures” (via Zoom). Although these sessions are recorded, it is best to attend the live session.

Generally, they are held on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm or from 2:00 to 4:00 pm (not every week).

The three-day workshop in previous years will be replaced by three single days -

Monday 2nd March – 10.00-4.00 via ZOOM

Thursday 27th March – 10.00-4.00 Face to Face, city campus

Thursday 8th May – 10.00-4.00 via ZOOM

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 (each equivalent to 15 credit points):

- [Nurse Immuniser Program – Australian Catholic University, or The University of Melbourne, or ACN](#)
- [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.. Please check with the course coordinator before enrolling in external electives that are not on this list.

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.

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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)	

Clinical experience requirements

NSM4MCH (semester 1)	HOURS	
Maternal and Child Health Universal	116	May commence from 31/03/2025, may include 4 hours MAV/DHHS conference
Childcare	8	Self-sourced
Early intervention agency	8	Self-sourced
EPC Day stay/Parenting Support	8	Self-selected via InPlace, in an Early Parenting Centre (EPC), or can be self-sourced
Total	140	
NSM5COM (semester 2)	HOURS	
Maternal and Child Health Universal	116	May include 4 hours MAV/DHHS conference
Early Parenting Support	24	Self-selected via InPlace, in an Early Parenting Centre.
Total	140	

Semester dates

Semester 1 – 02/03/2026 (Week 10) – 29/05/2026 (Week 22)

Semester 2 – 13/07/2026 (Week 29) – 9/10/2026 (Week 41)

