



Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing)

2026/27 Frequently Asked Questions

The following document outlines some of the frequently asked questions that will help you commence your journey to becoming a Maternal and Child Health nurse.

If you have any queries about the program, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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Entry Requirements

Students seeking admission to the Master or Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing) must:

- Hold current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as both a Registered Nurse and a Midwife, with no conditions on their registration.
- Meet recency of practice requirements as per the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, which includes:
 - A minimum of 12 months full-time experience in both Nursing and Midwifery,
OR
 - A minimum of 5 years full-time experience in either Nursing or Midwifery.
- Have a confirmed clinical placement in a Maternal and Child Health Service.



Course Structure

The Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing) comprises 120 Credit Points made up of two 30 Credit Point units and four 15 Credit Point units. The structure of the full-time course is outlined in the table below.

SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2		
Unit code	Unit Title	Credit points	Unit code	Unit Title	Credit Points
HEALM5001	Foundations in Child and Family Health	30	HEALM5002	Advanced clinical practice in child and family health	30
HEALM6302	Family & Community Studies	15	HEALM6306	Infant & Child Nutrition	15
HEALP6202	Perinatal & Infant Mental Health 2	15	HEALT5000	Applied Research and Evidence-Based Practice	15

Students may undertake the program part-time over **18 months or 2 years**.

Mid-year entry is available for part-time students, starting with non-clinical units in the first semester. Clinical placement must be secured and will commence the following year

Note: To have an individual discussion about the program pathway most suitable for you, please contact the Course Coordinator.



Federation University offers graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing) the opportunity to progress to Master's level study. Students can choose between two pathways:

- Research Pathway
- Leadership Pathway

Both options provide a strong foundation for developing advanced skills in applying evidence-based practice to inform clinical decision-making and contribute to advancing knowledge in the field of Maternal and Child Health

Research Pathway

Year	SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2		
Year 1	HEALT6001	Research Methods for Health	30	HEALT6002	Inquiry and Analysis of Literature	30
Year 2	HEALT7002	Research Thesis A	30	HEALT7003	Research Thesis B	30

Leadership Pathway

Year	SEMESTER 1			SEMESTER 2		
Year 1	HEALT6005	Governance in Healthcare	30	HEALT6006	People and Clinical Resource Management in Healthcare	30
Year 2	HEALT7004	Leadership Development in Healthcare	30	HEALT7006	Work Integrated Project	30

For a brief overview of each of the units, please follow the link below for Federation University 'Unit Finder' and search for Child and Family Health Nursing [click here](#) please.

Clinical Practicum

The Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing) requires students to complete 300 hours of clinical experience, including:

- 240 hours in Local Council Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services
- 60 hours in specialty services closely associated with the MCH Nurse role

The table below outlines the units within the program that include clinical practicum and the required hours.



Applicants may begin the admission process to Federation University while awaiting the outcome of their Expression of Interest (EOI). Once placement is secured, upload a letter of confirmation to Federation University Admissions to progress your application to enrolment.

Confirmation of placement with a Local Council MCH service is mandatory for consideration for entry into the Master's or Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing).

Information on applying for a clinical placement is available on the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) website. We recommend submitting EOIs early:

- February–March for the Mid-Year Intake
- July–August for the following year's Semester One Intake

The Prospective MCH Applicant Information Pack and EOI form, including a list of councils and available places, can be found on the MAV website under 'For Prospective Students'. Please [click here](#).

SEMESTER 1		SEMESTER 2	
HEALM5001	Universal MCH (120 Hours) Specialty Placement (30 hours)	HEALM5002	Universal MCH (120 hours) Specialty Placement (30 hours)
Universal placement includes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Time Parent Group (6-8 hours) • Lactation Service (7-8 hours) • Sleep & Settling in Universal Service (7-8 hours) 		
Specialty placements include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare (7-8 hours) • EPC Day stay (7-8 hours) • MCH line (3 hours) • EPC residential placement (20-22 hours) • Early Intervention Specialist Children's services, Speech, OT, Physio etc.) (7-8 hours) • Enhanced placement (3-5 days) in second semester 		



Making an application

For information about enrolling in either the Diploma or Masters of Nursing (Child and Family Health Nursing) at Federation University, please click this link

<https://study.federation.edu.au/search/?term=child+and+family+health>

Credit

Where a student can demonstrate that they have undertaken an equivalent unit within the last 5 years at a post-graduate level, either at Federation University or another Higher Education provider, an application can be made for Credit.

Course Delivery

The program is delivered in a blended learning format, combining online components with face-to-face interaction during on-campus residential blocks. Federation University has a strong track record in delivering successful online education, using a variety of strategies to engage and support learners throughout their studies.

The program adopts a flipped classroom model, where students complete academic activities in advance and then participate in interactive online sessions. These sessions foster dialogue with peers and provide guidance from academic experts.



Case study-based learning is a key feature, immersing students in the role of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) nurse and reinforcing practical application of knowledge.

On-campus residential blocks offer opportunities to connect with peers and develop essential clinical skills. Each clinical unit includes four days of on-campus learning per semester, dedicated to hands-on practice and skill development.

Course Fee Structure

Students undertaking the Master/Graduate Diploma of Health (Child and Family Health Nursing) at Federation University are eligible to receive a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP).

*For all information about CSP eligibility, please contact Federation University Student Fees via email studentfees@federation.edu.au or for more information about Commonwealth Assistance with fees, please [click here](#).

Scholarships are also available through the Department of Health and managed by the university. Details can be found [here](#).

Additional Requirements

Students will not be permitted to undertake an MCH clinical experience without completing the following mandatory requirements:



- InPlace documentation
- Certification of immunisation status
- Current Working with Children Check
- Current Police Check

NB: It is the student's responsibility to arrange all required documentation. Any costs associated with these checks are the responsibility of the student.