



Gerontological Nursing Competencies

COURSE HANDBOOK

ESSENTIALS SPR25B

Mixed

2025

WELCOME

Welcome to the Gerontological Nursing Competencies (GNCs) course.

This handbook is your essential learning resource as you progress through the GNCs course. It provides an overview of the GNC Framework, course learning schedule, assessments, and other essential information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

KEY CONTACTS

For all assessment and course enquiries, please email gnc-learning@usc.edu.au.
For enrolment and general enquiries, please email gnc-enquiries@usc.edu.au.

LINKS AND RESOURCES

GNCs website	www.adhere.org.au/gncs
GNCs course email	gnc-learning@usc.edu.au
GNCs general email	gnc-enquiries@usc.edu.au

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the GNCs core competencies and domains of practice as they relate to aged care contexts
- Discuss expectations and experiences of mentoring to establish an effective mentoring partnership
- Reflect on current gerontological nursing competencies in order to identify areas for practice development
- Formulate an action plan to develop GNC competencies
- Generate a range of evidence to reflect learning and development of GNC competencies
- Create a professional portfolio of evidence to demonstrate competence as a specialist gerontological nurse

COURSE COMMITMENT

We suggest allowing one hour per week to complete the course requirements. There are compulsory online workshops: Orientation, Workshop 1, Workshop 2 and a Celebration event. The dates for the workshops are detailed in the Schedule of Learning section.

ONLINE PLATFORM

OpenLearning is the online platform used to deliver the GNCs course.

COURSE DETAILS

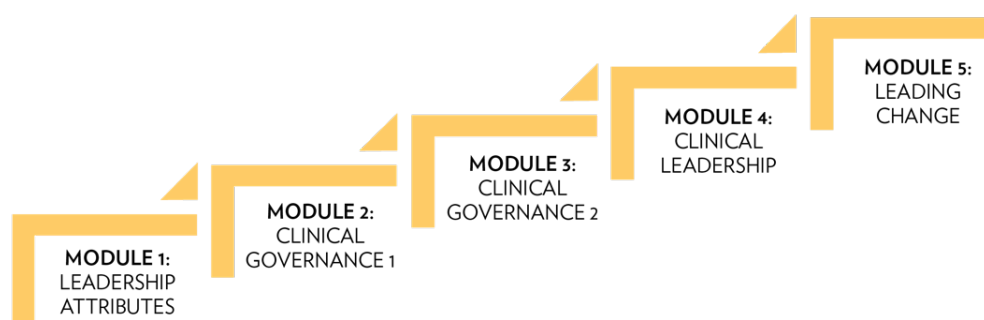
OVERVIEW

There are five steps to undertake when implementing the GNCs and developing your portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your competence as a gerontological nurse. Each step corresponds to an assessment item.

Essential GNCs Course:



Enhanced Leadership GNCs Course:



Assessment submission

- Marking criteria will be provided to guide each assessment.
- Before submitting your assessment you must obtain feedback from your mentor.
- All assessments are submitted through the online learning platform OpenLearning.
- All assessments are graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory.
- One additional attempt will be granted to resubmit an unsatisfactory assessment.
- Extensions for assessments may be granted if applied in writing before the assessment due date. Please email your mentor and gnc-learning@usc.edu.au if you wish to apply for an extension.
- Participants may be excluded from the course if assessments have not been submitted two weeks after the due date and if contact has not been made with the mentor.
- All participants must submit their own work. Submitting work that has been copied from other sources or written by others will result in an unsatisfactory mark.
- Assessments are due at midnight on the Tuesday of that week

Benefits

- Participants upon successful completion will be eligible for credit or advanced standing towards a postgraduate gerontological course
- Eligible for CPD points

Completion Certificate

To receive your certificate of completion at the end of the course you will be required to:

- Attend all virtual workshops (dates attached)
- Complete all five assessments

Course Withdrawal

If for any reason you wish to withdraw from the GNCs course you will need to email your organisation contact person, mentor and the GNCs team at gnc-learning@usc.edu.au.

Mentors

You will be allocated a mentor to provide you with support throughout the GNCs program. If you are experiencing challenges with completing your assessments, please contact your mentor in the first instance and then the GNCs team at gnc-learning@usc.edu.au.

Privacy Statement

Further information about the University of the Sunshine Coast privacy policy can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu.au/privacy>.

Further information about OpenLearning privacy policy can be found at: <https://solutions.openlearning.com/privacy-policy>.

SCHEDULE OF LEARNING

EVENT	DATE
Orientation (Mandatory) Microsoft Teams Click here to join now	TBA - October 2025 Duration: 2hrs Time (NSW): 2pm – 4pm Time (QLD): 1pm – 3pm Time (WA): 11am – 1pm Note: One hour for participants and two hours for mentors
Workshop 1 (Mandatory) Microsoft Teams Click here to join now	Thursday, 30 October 2025 Duration: 4hrs Time (NSW): 11am – 3pm Time (NSW/QLD): 10am – 2pm Time (WA): 8am – 12pm
Assessment 1: Mentoring Agreement	Thursday, 13 November 2025
Assessment 2: Self-Assessment	Thursday, 27 November 2025
Workshop 2 (Mandatory) Microsoft Teams Click here to join now	Thursday, 4 December 2025 Duration: 4hrs Time (NSW): 11am – 3pm Time (NSW/QLD): 10am – 2pm Time (WA): 8am – 12pm
Assessment 3: Action Plan	Thursday, 29 January 2026
Assessment 4: Generating Evidence	Thursday, 26 February 2026
Q&A Drop-in Session (Optional) Microsoft Teams Click here to join now	Thursday, 9 April 2026 Duration: 1hr Time (NSW/QLD): 2pm – 3pm Time (WA): 12pm – 1pm
Assessment 5: Portfolio	Thursday, 23 April 2026
Celebration (Mandatory) Microsoft Teams Click here to join now	Thursday, 21 May 2026 Duration: 2hrs Time (NSW/QLD): 2pm – 4pm Time (WA): 12pm – 2pm
Post-Course Session (Optional) Microsoft Teams Click here to join now	Thursday, 2 July 2026 Duration: 2hrs Time (NSW/QLD): 4pm - 5pm Time (WA): 2pm - 3pm

GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING COMPETENCIES

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

