



Discovery Program Theatre

Perioperative
Clinical Nurse Educators

What is Perioperative Nursing?

Perioperative Nurses provide care for patients in the period prior to, during, and post surgical or interventional procedures. Perioperative nurses:

- Have a strong desire to work in a close knit team of nursing, medical, and allied health professionals
- Are quick thinking, highly organised and enjoy the challenges of working in a busy, dynamic and rewarding environment

Perioperative nurses encompasses a variety of specialty roles which include:

- Holding Bay Nurse
- Circulating Nurse (Scout)
- Instrument Nurse (Scrub)
- Anaesthetic Nurse
- Postanaesthetic Recovery Nurse (Recovery)

Perioperative Student Profile

- **Post Graduate:** 1-2 years, Certificate or Diploma offered by several universities (e.g. Deakin, UTas, ACN)
- **Discovery:** 6 month program comprising practical and theoretical hurdles. 4-5 places in either the instrument/circulating nurse role or anaesthetic/PACU nurse
- **GNP:** 6 month rotation in either the instrument/circulating nurse role or PACU nurse



Western Health Perioperative Unit

Provides services across the following campuses:

- **Footscray** - Six theatres & two procedure rooms
- **Sunshine** - Six theatres & two procedure rooms
- **Williamstown** - Four theatres
- **Sunbury** - Two theatres
- **Joan Kirner Women's and Children's (future)** - Four theatres & one procedure room



Surgical Specialities

- Endoscopy
- ENT / Head and Neck
- Faciomaxillary
- Gastroenterology
- General surgery (encompasses Upper GI, colorectal, breast & endocrine)
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetric & Gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Plastics
- Pain Medicine
- Thoracic
- Urology
- Vascular



Typical Operating Theatre



Holding Bay





Theatre in Action!

Scrub Nurse



PACU



Aim of the Discovery Program

To facilitate participants development of foundational knowledge and clinical skills required to practice safely and effectively in the Perioperative environment.

Discovery Program Structure

- A 6 month supported program for registered nurses with minimal experience in the speciality of Perioperative Scrub/Scout or Anaesthetics/PACU nursing
- 6 month fixed term contract
- Includes two supernumerary weeks
- Rotation through the specialties
- Study days are included
- Minimum clinical hours: 66 hours/fortnight (employed at a minimum of 0.7EFT). Full time is preferred.
- Support provided by clinical nurse educators and preceptors
- Successful program completion enables:
 - ✓ RPL credits
 - ✓ Pathways into Postgraduate, Diploma and Masters

Program Curriculum (clinical & theoretical)

Scrub/Scout	Anaesthetic/PACU
Aseptic technique	Monitoring devices
Counting for accountable items	Components of anaesthetic machine
Electrosurgical equipment & safety	General, regional, block anaesthesia
Infection prevention	Emergencies during anaesthesia
Patient positioning	Special anaesthetic considerations
Intra operative preparation	Airway management
Reprocessing of reusable items	Pre operative patient assessment
Surgical Plume	Introduction to PACU nursing
Specimen Handling	Preparation for anaesthetics
Radiation	Introductions to PACU nursing
Scrubbing Gowning & Gloving	Preparation of PACU environment
Surgical instruments	Anaesthetic agents
Sutures	Patient assessment in PACU
Surgeons preferences	Post anaesthetic complications

Clinical Assessment

Satisfactory completion of :

- Minimum clinical hours (858) hours for entire program
- Clinical Competencies
- Interim Appraisal (3 months)
- Final Appraisal (6 months)

Theoretical Assessment

Satisfactory completion of :

- 5 SMART objectives
- Presentation
- Log Book
- Case Study
- Workbook

***NB - Must achieve 80% to pass theoretical component.*

Application Process

Selection process through eRecruit:

<https://westernhealth.mercury.com.au/>

Further Information

<http://www.westernhealth.org.au/EducationandResearch/Education/Pages/Discovery-Program---Theatre.aspx>