

# Health Science postgraduate coursework program

## Rationale

The current trends towards specialisation, as well as interdisciplinary and inter-professional work environments suggest that there is a need for graduate programs that offer options to:

- Build on existing undergraduate qualifications, thus enabling specialisation eg. Graduate Diploma of Pharmaceutical Science, which builds on the Bachelor of Pharmacy
- Complement existing qualifications or expertise in related areas, thus enhancing professional role performance eg. a graduate with a Bachelor of Nursing, or Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery seeking some expertise in health informatics, or management
- Gain an additional qualification to facilitate the uptake of a different professional role eg. a nurse or a Bachelor of Health Science graduate seeking to become a health informatics professional

These needs would be best met by developing generic and/or professionally based 'mix-and-match' graduate programs utilising units currently offered by schools and departments within the faculty and across the university.

## Principles

- All courses within the program will have a specific focus on the health sciences
- Development of courses will be based on demonstrated need within Tasmania, Australia and/or internationally. This may require market research to identify areas of need/niche markets/target groups
- Courses should be supported, where appropriate, by government, professions and the health care field
- Economic sustainability should be a key consideration
- Frequent inter-faculty and intra-faculty communication and cooperation will ensure minimal duplication
- Specialist courses will be located within the school or department which is the primary focus/major area of study
- The sharing of resources and expertise will be promoted to ensure quality and efficiency
- Where existing units are utilised, relevance of content to the new course will be essential. Strategies may include adapting content, readings and/or assignments. This will also apply to courses offered to international students.

- Expectations of student performance across courses and/or schools will be consistent
- There will be a clear rationale for the assessment processes
- Flexible delivery will be a key consideration
- Wherever possible, courses will be linked to research opportunities

## **Processes**

Processes and guidelines will draw upon and reflect existing processes within the University of Tasmania. Guidelines will be developed to assist with:

- Development of content and structure.
- Input from professionals
- Curriculum and instructional design
- Allocation of administrative support and resource requirements
- Evaluation