

Specialist Nurse Credentialing Program
Mental Health Nursing
Addendum to
C4N Qualification Framework

For definitions of terms used in this document, please refer to the Glossary in *the C4N Qualification Framework* available [here](#).

Pathway 1: Holds a Specialty Nursing Qualification

The applicant must demonstrate that they have completed a specialty nursing qualification at the minimum level of a Graduate Diploma (as per the Australian Qualification Framework www.aqf.edu.au) worth 100 points from **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Pathway 1

	Category of Education	Notes:
Australian Qualification Framework Level	Specialty Nursing Qualification	
Graduate Diploma or higher degree	100 points	<p>The program must be a clearly defined mental health nursing / psychiatric nursing course. The options are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doctoral Degree <i>The thesis must specify the Field of Research (FoR) code 420504 (mental health nursing) or an equivalent earlier code.</i> <p>(For overseas Doctoral Degrees please refer to the <i>Guidelines for Completing the Specialist Nurse Credentialing Application - ACMHN Appendix</i>)</p> 2. Master's Degree <i>Master in Mental Health Nursing (however titled), must include content on mental health nursing theory and practice.</i> 3. Post Graduate Diploma <i>The Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing (however titled), must include content on mental health nursing theory and practice.</i>

Pathway 2: Holds a combination of qualifications and education related to the speciality

The applicant must demonstrate they have attained a minimum of 100 points from **Table 2**. On this pathway, applicants may combine points from postgraduate qualifications and other education attained in various Categories of Education. Definitions of each Category of Education can be found in the Definitions section.

Table 2: Pathway 2

	Category of Education			Notes:
Australian Qualification Framework Level	I: Specialty Nursing Qualification (mental health nursing)	II: Other Nursing Qualification (non-mental health nursing)	III: Other Qualification relating to the speciality (non-nursing)	<p>For those who do not qualify under <i>Pathway 1</i>, this must be a combination of either Category I plus Category II, or Category I plus Category III.</p> <p><u>Category of Education I – Speciality Nursing Qualification</u></p> <p>The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* (however titled), must include content on mental health nursing theory and practice.</p> <p>The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* (however titled) must be inclusive of mental health nursing curricula, and not just nursing and /or mental health curricula.</p> <p><u>Category of Education III – Other Qualification relating to the speciality</u></p> <p>The corresponding Graduate Certificate, or Diploma must be titled to reflect a complementary mental health practice.</p> <p>Cognate Graduate qualifications are courses that cover subject matter closely related to, or which provide additional insight into, the theory or practice of mental health.</p>

Graduate Diploma or higher degree	<i>N/A: Refer to Pathway 1</i>	75 points	N/A	Doctoral degree in nursing (not FoR Code 420504 mental health nursing) Master's degree in nursing (not in mental health nursing)
	<i>N/A: Refer to Pathway 1</i>	N/A	60 points	Graduate Diploma (not in mental health nursing)
Graduate Certificate	50 points	N/A	50 points	Graduate Certificates

Pathway 3: Nurses who

**(3A) undertook a specialist post basic hospital course recognised by the speciality organisation / college OR
(3b) were registered as specialist nurses by previous Australian nursing registration authorities.**

The applicant must demonstrate that they have completed from **Table 3** either:

- 3A.** A post-basic hospital certificate recognised by the specialty college/ organisation OR
- 3B.** A post-basic hospital certificate or specialist pre-registration course that led to registration, or specialist registration where that existed.

Table 3: Pathway 3

Registration as a specialist nurse	Points	Notes:
3A An Australian Post Basic Hospital Course recognised by the specialty organisation /college	100 points	A hospital post-registration course (min 12 months FTE) that led to registration as a specialist mental health nurse / psychiatric nurse by the relevant nurse registering authority in Australia. <i>(Completion of a Transition to Mental Health Nursing Program does not meet the requirement for credentialing because Transition programs did not lead to qualification as a specialist mental health nurse/psychiatric nurse by the relevant nursing registering authority.)</i>
3B A post-basic hospital certificate or specialist pre-registration course that led to registration, or specialist registration where that existed.	100 points	A 3-year hospital-based course that led to registration as a specialist mental health nurse / psychiatric nurse by the relevant nurse registering authority in Australia. OR An undergraduate diploma or degree leading to direct entry into mental health nursing / psychiatric nursing. For overseas qualifications: Ahpra registration with a notation indicating practice is limited to mental health nursing. Those who do not have the notation for mental health nursing practice only, will need to qualify for credentialing under <i>Pathway 2</i> .