

# HANNAH FAUL

## STEP 1

Completed Year 12 VCE at Catholic College Wodonga

## STEP 2

Completed the Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled) at Victoria University. This took 2-years to complete.

## STEP 3

Completed the Bachelor of Nursing (Pre-Registration), La Trobe University, Wodonga.

This took 2-years to complete.

## STEP 4

Completed the 12-month Graduate Nursing Program at Wodonga Hospital.

## STEP 5

Completed the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery through La Trobe University online whilst working at Wodonga Hospital.

## STEP 6

Work as a fully qualified midwife for Albury Wodonga Health Service.



## INTERVIEW WITH HANNAH

### What inspired you to pursue a course and career in your chosen field?

I just always knew that I wanted to be a midwife. My mum was a midwife, my cousin is a midwife, I just felt a calling to it.

### What subjects at school helped you the most with your university subjects.

- **Biology** was great because you need to know about cells in nursing, biology gives you a great baseline to then continue and increase your knowledge.
- **Maths** because you use math every day with medication, it was very helpful to have a good understanding of different formulas.

### What did you do during school to research your career field?

I attended open days at Latrobe in Wodonga and went to Melbourne to attend open days and talk to different universities about my options. I researched all the different universities that offered a double degree in nursing and midwifery.

### What was studying your course at university like?

I really enjoyed studying nursing and midwifery. I ended up doing my nursing first and then midwifery as a postgraduate degree. I loved meeting other nurses, making new friends with similar interests. Placements were my favourite thing, I loved being in the clinical setting. I learn a lot by being hands on, there were a lot of placements and all were great for learning and development.

### Describe a typical day at work

Midwifery is very versatile, I work in 6 different departments so every day can be very different.

I take antenatal classes: teaching new mums and their partners about labour, birth and the first few months of parenthood.

I am part of our midwife care program so 2-3 times a month I run a clinic where pregnant women come in, I check their babies heart rate, ask how they are and educate them on lots of different things about pregnancy, labour, and birth. I check their blood results and order tests.

The other days I work between birth suite, the postnatal/antenatal ward, special care nursery and the women's surgical department.

First we get handover and find out what is happening for the day. I mostly work in birth suite, when I'm in birth suite I get allocated a woman in labour and I look after her for the day, get to know her, do a lot of paperwork, monitor the baby through labour, check how dilated her cervix is, empower the mother to make the choices she wants and support her process of labour and birth.

In the special care nursery I am feeding babies, supporting/facilitating breastfeeding, helping mums and dads with the first bath. Lots of education. On the postnatal/antenatal ward I am checking mums vital

signs, checking her bleeding and stitches, supporting/facilitating breastfeeding, and giving lots of education.

### **What do you love about your job?**

I love teaching and educating women so that they feel supported and empowered to have the birth experience that they want. I love getting a baby to breastfeed after they have been struggling with feeding. I love labour and birth and seeing 2 people fall so in love with the tiny little humans.

I love watching parents take their babies home, especially after they have been in our special care nursery for a long time. I love watching parents grow and become more confident with their babies. I have the most wonderful job in the world. It is so versatile and it's always different.

### **What should students know about your field of work that they won't read in a course guide?**

Sometimes nursing and midwifery can be really hard, we are often under staffed and definitely under paid. You don't do this job for the money, you do it because you are passionate about helping people.

Sometimes people and babies unfortunately pass away and it's really hard! The hard days are few and far between, and it's all part of the job. The days can be long and exhausting. Night shift sucks, but the money is good! It's not always easy, but it's worth every minute! It can be very physical.

Thanks for your time Hannah!

**Careers Department, Catholic College Wodonga**