Program Name: Practical Nursing
Credential/Certification: Diploma in Practical Nursing
Date Submitted: January 2019
Effective Date: October 2018

Program Contact: Program Chair: Lana Sprinkle

Dean: Steve Roe


Program Description: The Diploma in Practical Nursing at Northern Lights College follows the new provincial curriculum as revised in 2017. The program is designed to provide learners with the knowledge, skills, judgments, and attitudes to perform to the full range of competencies as endorsed by the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP). The curriculum provides a learning experience that is integrated, professional, collaborative, and culturally sensitive, with an aim to prepare graduates to care for individuals (and families of individuals) at multiple life stages and in a variety of practice settings. Consistent with the CLPNBC Scope of Practice: Standards, Limits and Conditions (2017), the focus for beginners’ practice is “promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health, with a focus on clients with stable and predictable states of health.” Upon successful completion of the program, learners will possess the competencies to successfully complete the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE).

Admission Requirements:
1. Grade 12 graduation, or equivalent (General Educational Development, Adult Basic Education), or mature student status.

2. English: any one of the following with a minimum grade of (C+) 67%: English Studies 12, English 12, English Literature 12, English First Peoples 12, or equivalent. See below for applicants with English as an additional language.

3. Math: any one of the following with a minimum grade of (C) 60%: Foundations of Mathematics 11, Pre-Calculus 11, or equivalent. If the Math requirement is over 10 years old, NLC requires an 11.9 score on the numeracy sections of the CAAT (Number Operations and Problem Solving).
4. Biology: any one of the following with a minimum grade of (C) 60%: Anatomy and Physiology 12, Biology 12, or equivalent. The Biology requirement must have been completed within 10 years of application.

5. PNUR 099: Anatomy and Physiology for Practical Nurses (or an equivalent course at another institution) with a minimum grade of C+. The completion date for PNUR 099 or equivalent must be within five years of program initiation. Applicants may be granted conditional acceptance into the Practical Nursing Diploma program prior to completing PNUR 099 or equivalent. However, the PNUR 099 requirement must be successfully completed prior to the first day of classes in Semester 1.

APPLICANTS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE:
Applicants with English as an additional language are defined as those who do not have three years of full-time, face-to-face, secondary or post-secondary education at an accredited institution where English is the medium of instruction in a country where English is also an official national language. English as a Second Language/Additional Language courses are not included in this three-year calculation. Such applicants must achieve scores identified in one of the two tests below:

1. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with minimum scores of:
   - Speaking: 7.0
   - Listening: 7.5
   - Reading: 6.5
   - Writing: 7.0
   - Overall Band Score: 7.0

2. Canadian English Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN) with minimum scores of:
   - Speaking: 8.0
   - Listening: 10.0
   - Reading: 8.0
   - Writing: 7.0

NOTE ON ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE:
In addition to meeting English language admission requirements for the Provincial Practical Nursing Program, graduates who speak English as an additional language must be able to demonstrate performance-ready English proficiency as a condition for registration and practice in British Columbia. See BCCNP’s website for further details.

POST-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
The following three items must be completed by the first day of classes in Semester 1:


2. Schedule B Criminal Record Check (working with children and vulnerable adults) through the Ministry of Justice. Under no circumstances will students be permitted to
begin a Consolidated Practice Experience until they have authorized a Schedule B CRC and the results have been reviewed by NLC. Convictions for certain offences may disqualify students from participation in practice experiences and program completion. The CRC application process may take 3 – 6 weeks to complete, so students are urged to attend to this matter at least 6 weeks before their program start date. Please see https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Admissions/Criminal-Records-Check for instructions on how to complete a CRC. Furthermore, students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize a CRC but are still enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

3. Immunizations as outlined in the Practice Education Guidelines (http://www.hspcanada.net/docs/PEG/1_3_Immunization.pdf). A completed NLC Immunization Requirements Form is required on or before the first day of classes in Semester 1.

4. An annual flu shot and TB test are also required. Students must submit this documentation in October/November of each year.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
1. Students in NLC’s Practical Nursing program have an average of 28 hours of classes, laboratories, and other learning activities per week. A comparable number of individual study hours is required. Further, in clinical learning situations, students will be in close contact with individuals who have a variety of health issues. For these reasons, students should be in a satisfactory level of physical and emotional health to ensure success in the program.

2. Clinical Learning experiences may occur in a variety of settings, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Chetwynd, and Fort Nelson. All students should be prepared for in-region travel.

3. Applicants wishing to transfer from another Practical Nursing Program must provide evidence that the above admission requirements have been meet. Applications for transfer credit will be reviewed on an individual basis. Transfer-based admission will be dependent on available space.

4. Students who do not meet program progression criteria and reapply for admission in a subsequent intake must satisfy the following two items:
   a. Demonstrate that all current admission criteria have been met.
   b. Provide evidence of completing any upgrading or re-entry requirements.

5. Attendance Requirements:
   a. Consistent attendance is mandatory.
   b. Absence for more than six (6) hours of theory classes per course will seriously jeopardize a student's ability to meet course objectives and may result in automatic failure of the course.
   c. A student who is absent from a scheduled lab must complete a make up assignment as determined by the instructor. Absence of more than six (6) hours of scheduled lab
hours per course will seriously impair a student’s ability to meet course objectives and may result in automatic failure of the course.

d. A student who is absent from a scheduled shift comprising a clinical, practicum, or preceptorship will not be provided with supplemental clinical experience. Students absent for more than 15% of each experience will be required to withdraw from the program.

6. Daily Hours:
   a. Classroom seminars and/or laboratory learning sessions may be scheduled until 2200 hours on some days.
   b. Clinical learning experiences may involve some evening experiences lasting until 2300 hours.

Length of Program: (weeks and total hours) 1850 hours (67 weeks)

Program Intake: (start/finish dates)
Start: October
Finish: May-June (21-22 months later)

Available Seats: 24

Application Deadline: Open October 1st for October admission in the following year

Career Prospects: Licensed Practical Nurses work with other interprofessional, health care team members in a variety of settings and play an increasingly wide role in primary health care focusing on health promotion, illness and injury prevention, and health protection and restoration.

Affiliations/Partnerships: N/A

Location: Classroom and Laboratory contact hours are scheduled in the Health Sciences Building in Dawson Creek. As noted above, clinical learning experiences may occur in a variety of settings, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Chetwynd, and perhaps Fort Nelson. Efforts will be made to place students in convenient clinical locations, but all students should be prepared for in-region travel. Transportation, meals, and accommodation are the responsibility of the student. After a clinical or preceptorship site is assigned by the Program Chair and instructor, no changes are permitted.

Additional Requirements/Supplies: (fees, supplies, materials)
Required Supplies/Materials:
- Stethoscope
- Uniforms, lab coats (provided by NLC at cost)
- WCB approved safety/nursing shoes
- Watch with a second hand
- Books and lab kits
Recommended Supplies, Resources, and Skills:
- A personal laptop with a current web browser is recommended for each learner, as a substantial amount of course and program resource materials are provided solely in electronic form. Learners should have access to a computer with high speed internet capabilities in order to review and/or retrieve these resources. Printing of resource materials is at the discretion of the learner. Please contact your campus library for printing costs if you will be using these facilities. Basic computer literacy skills are required. Applicants needing assistance with basic computer skills are asked to discuss their computer capabilities with the Admissions Officer at the time of application.

Eligibility for Canada Student Loans: (Yes or No)
Yes

Required Minimum Grade: (overall and/or minimum within a course)
Students must achieve 100% on all Pharmacology Math exams. A maximum of two rewrites are available for each Pharmacology Math exam (applies to PNUR 114 and PNUR 124).

Students must achieve a minimum of 80% on the theory portion of the Pharmacology courses (applies to PNUR 114 and PNUR 124).

Integrated Lab Assessments or Skill Assessments in the Integrated Nursing Practice courses are marked Pass/Fail, and a mark of 80% is required to pass. Should a mark of 80% not be achieved, a student will be allowed one retest for each Skills Assessment (applies to PNUR 115, 125, 235, 245).

Students must achieve a minimum of 75% on the theory portion of the Integrated Nursing Practice courses (applies to PNUR 115, 125, 235, 245).

All other theory nursing courses require a minimum grade of 68% for students to progress from term to term and to graduate from the program.

In ALL cases, when a second test is necessary, the student and instructor will meet to discuss remedial strategies before the retest is attempted. Sufficient time for practice and improvement will be provided (minimum of two days).

In total, a maximum of two rewrites of a final exam are permitted for the theory portions of the Practical Nursing curriculum in a given academic year. No more than one supplemental exam can be written per theory course.

The Final Practice Experience/Preceptorship is marked Pass/Fail (PNUR 248).

Residency Requirement: (percentage of courses which must be taken at NLC)
25% of the program must be completed at Northern Lights College.

Required Courses: (list courses required to complete credential and total hours for each course)
SEMESTER ONE:
PNUR 110: Professional Communication 1 (35 hrs)
PNUR 111: Professional Practice 1 (25 hrs)
PNUR 112: Health Promotion 1 (30 hrs)
PNUR 113: Variations in Health 1 (40 hrs)
PNUR 114: Pharmacology 1 (30 hrs)
PNUR 115: Integrated Nursing Practice 1 (135 hrs)
PNUR 116: Consolidated Practice Experience 1 (90 hrs)

SEMESTER TWO:
PNUR 120: Professional Communication 2 (30 hrs)
PNUR 121: Professional Practice 2 (20 hrs)
PNUR 122: Health Promotion 2 (30 hrs)
PNUR 123: Variations in Health 2 (45 hrs)
PNUR 124: Pharmacology 2 (30 hrs)
PNUR 125: Integrated Nursing Practice 2 (180 hrs)
PNUR 126: Consolidated Practice Experience 2 (120 hrs)

SEMESTER THREE:
PNUR 230: Professional Communication 3 (20 hrs)
PNUR 231: Professional Practice 3 (20 hrs)
PNUR 232: Health Promotion 3 (36 hrs)
PNUR 233: Variations in Health 3 (45 hrs)
PNUR 235: Integrated Nursing Practice 3 (120 hrs)
PNUR 236: Consolidated Practice Experience 3 (65 hrs)

SEMESTER FOUR:
PNUR 240: Professional Communication 4 (20 hrs)
PNUR 241: Professional Practice 4 (20 hrs)
PNUR 242: Health Promotion 4 (24 hrs)
PNUR 243: Variations in Health 4 (50 hrs)
PNUR 245: Integrated Nursing Practice 4 (180 hrs)
PNUR 246: Consolidated Practice Experience 4 (200 hrs)

SEMESTER FIVE: (Intersession)
PNUR 247: Transition to Preceptorship (30 hrs)
PNUR 248: Final Practice Experience (180 hrs)