NORTHERN LIGHTS COLLEGE
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
PROGRAM INFORMATION AND COMPLETION GUIDE

Program Name: Practical Nursing
Credential/Certification: Diploma in Practical Nursing
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Document Author: Curriculum is written and approved by the Province of British Columbia, requiring adoption by all institutions that offer the Access to Practical Nursing Program in BC.

Province of British Columbia. (2025). Practical Nursing Program B.C. Provincial Curriculum 2025. BCcampus. https://opentextbc.ca/pncurriculum/

Program Description: The Diploma in Practical Nursing at Northern Lights College follows the current provincial curriculum as revised in 2027. 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 & Midwives (BCCNM). 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 BCCNM Scope of Practice: Standards, Limits and Conditions (2021), 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 Regulatory Exam - Practical Nurse (REx-PN).

Admission Requirements:
The following admission requirements reflect provincial standards mandated by the Practical Nursing Program Provincial Curriculum Guide Supplement:
1. Grade 12 graduation, or equivalent, or mature student status.

2. English: any one of the following with a minimum grade of (C+) 67%: English 12, or 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.

4. Biology: any one of the following with a minimum grade of(C) 60%: Anatomy and Physiology 12, Biology 12, or equivalent.

5. PNUR 099: Anatomy and Physiology for Practical Nurses (or an equivalent course at another institution in accordance with the BC Tranfer Guide) with a minimum grade of 65%. 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 its equivalent. However, the PNUR 099 requirement must be successfully completed prior to the first day of classes.

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 BCCNM's website for further details.

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

1. Current CPR (Basic Life Support) certification as outlined in the Health Sciences Placement Network Practice Education Guidelines - Orientation - Students.

2. Immunizations as outlined in the Health Sciences Placement Network Practice Education Guidelines - Communicable Disease Prevention

Please make an appointment with public health nurse immediately because immunization process can take anywhere from one to three months, sometimes longer.

3. Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination as referenced in the Practice Education Guidelines - Communicable Disease Prevention

4. Negative TB test indicating the absence of active tuberculosis.

5. N95 fit testing certification.

6. Schedule B Criminal Record Check (CRC) for working with "children and vulnerable adults." No student will be permitted to begin a workplace practicum with children or vulnerable adults until the CRC has been received and reviewed by NLC. Students are obligated to report any Schedule B criminal convictions that occur after they authorize a Criminal Record Check but are still enrolled in the program. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the program. Please apply for the CRC immediately because application process can take anywhere from three to six weeks.

(https://www.nlc.bc.ca/schedule/admissions-regulations/#criminal-records-checks)

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 various health issues. For these reasons, students should be at a satisfactory level of physical and emotional health to ensure success in the program.

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

3. 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.

4. 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 course failure.

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 course failure.

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.

5. 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) Approximately 70-80 weeks/1850 hours/59.5 credits

Program Intake: (start/finish dates)
Start: September
Finish: June (22 months later)

Available Seats: 24-28

Application Deadline: Open September 1st for September admission for 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: Northern Health and related facilities.

Location: Classroom and Laboratory contact hours are scheduled in Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. Clinical learning experiences may occur in a variety of settings, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Chetwynd, and 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

A substantial amount of course and program resource materials is provided solely in electronic form. Minimum computer requirements are published on NLC's website. See https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Services/Information-Technology/minPC

Printing of resource materials is a student responsibility. Please contact your campus library for printing costs if you plan to use campus facilities. Basic computer literacy skills are strongly recommended. Applicants needing assistance with basic computer skills are asked to discuss their computer skills with an Admissions Officer at the time of application.

Students are required to purchase texts for the program.
Appropriate attire and shoes are necessary for lab courses and for clinical and preceptorship experiences. Students must purchase standardized program uniforms from the NLC Bookstore.
Long shifts may be required for some components of the program.

Keys to success:
- Openness to new ideas
- An ability to self-evaluate, be self-reflective, and hold oneself accountable
- Maturity
- High standard of personal hygiene and grooming
- Ability to concentrate
- Consistent attendance
- Personal integrity and ability to exercise discretionary judgement
- Physical stamina
- Timely completion of all homework and readings for all courses/classes
- Continuously evolving intuitive and creative skills
- A caring philosophy and ability to work well within a team environment (understand, respect, and appreciate roles within a team)

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 three rewrites are available for each Pharmacology Math exam (applies to PNUR 114 and PNUR 124).

Students must achieve a minimum of 80% (A-) 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. To pass this course, students require BOTH a 75% grade for the theory portion of the course, AND mastery in skill development as indicated by an 80% grade on the final Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). One retest is granted for failure of the OSCE (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 exam re-write 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)
A minimum 25% of total program hours must be completed at Northern Lights College. Typically, students will complete the entire program at NLC; however, given the existence of a provincial curriculum, transfer credit may be considered from recognized institutions. Students should consult an Admissions Officer for more information.

Required Courses: (list courses required to complete credential and total hours for each course)
SEMESTER ONE:
PNUR 110: Professional Communication 1 (35 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 111: Professional Practice 1 (25 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 112: Health Promotion 1 (30 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 113: Variations in Health 1 (40 hrs; 1.5 Credits)
PNUR 114: Pharmacology 1 (30 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 115: Integrated Nursing Practice 1 (135 hrs - 4.5 Credits)

PNUR 116: Consolidated Practice Experience 1 (90 hrs; 3 Credits)

SEMESTER TWO:
PNUR 120: Professional Communication 2 (30 hrs; 2 Credits)
PNUR 121: Professional Practice 2 (20 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 122: Health Promotion 2 (30 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 123: Variations in Health 2 (45 hrs; 1.5 Credits)
PNUR 124: Pharmacology 2 (30 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 125: Integrated Nursing Practice 2 (180 hrs; 6 Credits)
PNUR 126: Consolidated Practice Experience 2 (120 hrs; 4 Credits)

SEMESTER THREE:
PNUR 230: Professional Communication 3 (20 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 231: Professional Practice 3 (20 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 232: Health Promotion 3 (36 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 233: Variations in Health 3 (45 hrs; 1.5)
PNUR 235: Integrated Nursing Practice 3 (120 hrs; 4 Credits)
PNUR 236: Consolidated Practice Experience 3 (65 hrs; 2 Credits)

SEMESTER FOUR:
PNUR 242: Health Promotion 4 (30 hrs; 1 Credit)
PNUR 243: Variations in Health 4 (50 hrs; 2 Credits)
PNUR 245: Integrated Nursing Practice 4 (214 hrs; 6.5)
PNUR 246: Consolidated Practice Experience 4 (200 hrs; 5 Credits)

SEMESTER FIVE:
PNUR 248: Final Practice Experience (210 hrs; 5 Credits)