

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Practical Nurse Access Program

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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PROGRAM PURPOSE

The provincial practical nursing education program (PPNP) is designed to provide learners with the knowledge, skills, judgments, and attitudes to perform to the full range of competencies as identified by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia.

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 by extension, families of individuals) at multiple life stages and in a variety of practice settings. Consistent with the *Entry to Practice Competencies for Licensed Practical Nurses* (© 2013 CCPNR), the focus is on the competencies that describe the knowledge, skill, judgement, and attitude required of beginning practitioners to provide safe, competent, and ethical nursing care. Additionally, upon successful completion of the program, learners will possess the competencies to successfully complete the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE). (This statement of program purpose is taken from the provincial practical nursing education program curriculum of August 2011, with amendments to reflect recent changes).

The philosophy of this program reflects Discovery Community College's commitment to hands-on training and graduating work ready students who are sought after by employers.

Upon completion of the program and successful completion of the CPNRE, graduates are prepared to "...work as frontline nurses caring for a wide range of clients at all stages of life. LPNs provide nursing services ranging from health promotion, to acute care, to long-term and palliative care" (this statement of occupational opportunities is taken from the CLPNBC website "what is an LPN" September 2016).

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following program outcomes describe what learners are expected to achieve by the end of their educational program and describe key professional abilities, incorporate the curricular philosophical approach, and highlight the core concepts.

Upon successful completion of the Provincial Practical Nursing Program (PPNP), graduates will:

- Apply the *Entry to Practice Competencies for Licensed Practical Nurses* (2013) to provide safe, competent, culturally safe and ethical care.
- Practice within relevant legislation, scope of practice standards, Professional Standards, and Practice Standards as set out by the Health Professions Act and the CLPNBC.

- Value and engage in continuous learning to maintain and enhance competence.
- Practice in collaboration with other members of the health care team to meet the collective needs of their clients.
- Participate in inter-professional problem solving and decision making processes.
- Advocate for and facilitate change reflecting evidence-informed practice.
- Make practice decisions that are client specific and consider client acuity, complexity, variability, and available resources.
- Use critical thinking, clinical judgment, and knowledge of assessment to plan, implement, and evaluate the agreed upon plan of care.
- Develop a collaborative relationship with clients by connecting, sharing, and exploring with them in a caring environment.
- Provide culturally safe, person-centred care across the lifespan that recognizes and respects the uniqueness of each individual and is sensitive to cultural safety and diversity.
- Provide leadership, direction, assignment, and supervision of unregulated care providers as appropriate.
- Identify one's own values, biases, and assumptions and the influence of these on interactions with clients and other members of the health care team.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The Practical Nurse Access program was initiated in response to the need for recognizing past education, training, and work experience of applicants to the Practical Nursing program. This program credits applicants for their previous British Columbia HCA, RCA, or RHCA education.

The program learning outcomes will be accomplished as students' progress through three levels of learning, each of which includes a practice experience.

Course Name	Course Hours
Level A	
PN A37 Human Anatomy and Physiology	72
PN A30 Professional Practice A	48
PN A31 Professional Communication A	48
PN A32 Variations in Health A	60
PN A33 Health Promotion A	32
PN A34 Pharmacology A	60
PN A35 Integrated Nursing Practice A	180
PN A39 Consolidated Practice Experience A	120
Level III	
PN 330 Professional Practice 3	20
PN 331 Professional Communication 3	20
PN 332 Variations in Health 3	48
PN 333 Health Promotion 3	36
PN 335 Integrated Nursing Practice 3	120

PN 339 Consolidated Practice Experience 3	68
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Level IV

PN 430 Professional Practice 4	20
PN 431 Professional Communication 4	20
PN 432 Variations in Health 4	52
PN 433 Health Promotion 4	24
PN 435 Integrated Nursing Practice 4	180
PN 439 Consolidated Practice Experience 4	200

PN 538 Transition to Final Practice Experience	32
PN 539 Final practice Experience	180

Level “A” provides the foundation for the development of nursing practice, introduces the learner to the healthy adult, and explores the older adult and concepts related to ageing and chronic illness in various settings. Level Three examines a continuum of care in community care and applies concepts from level “A” in the management of stable clients across the lifespan. Level Four integrates knowledge from previous levels and examines concepts related to the care of the client with acute presentation or exacerbation of chronic illness. Each level is supported by a Consolidated Practice Experience (CPE). The program culminates in a final practice experience to prepare the learner as an entry to practice graduate.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet all of these admission requirements prior to beginning their program:

- Grade 12 graduation from BC secondary school or equivalent (ABE, GED), or equivalent
- English 12 with a grade of C+ OR Technical and Professional Communication 12 with a grade of B+, or equivalent, or successful assessment testing
- Math 11 Principles with a grade of C (prior to 2012) OR Math 11 Foundations with a grade of C (commencing 2012), or equivalent, or successful assessment testing
- Biology 12 (Human Biology) with a grade of C, or equivalent, or successful assessment testing
- Submission of completed DCC application forms
- A satisfactory entrance interview with a DCC official
- Signed consent for a criminal record check under the Criminal Records Review Program (refer to notes under “Criminal Records Checks” below)
- Applicants with English as an additional language must meet the language requirements set by the CLPNBC (2011); (refer to notes under “English Language Proficiency Requirements” below)
- A certificate in one of these programs: Health Care Assistant (HCA) or Resident Care Attendant (RCA) or a combined Resident Care Home Support Attendant (RHCA)
- 600 hours of work experience within the last two years in a care facility (gerontology clients), verified by an employer letter

Discovery Community College applicants may write challenge exams or take upgrading courses to meet admission requirements for English 12, Math 11, and Biology 12.

Applicants must complete this admission requirement prior to starting the courses listed:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology for Practical Nurses with a minimum grade of C+ or equivalent, must be completed by the start of these specified courses: Variations in Health 1, Health Promotion 1, Pharmacology 1, Integrated Nursing Practice 1

Applicants must complete these requirements prior to the first practice education experience:

- CPR level C (must be valid until program end date)
- Criminal Record Check (refer to notes under “Criminal Records Checks” below)
- Immunization as required by the regional Health Authority and/or by sites of practice education (refer to guidelines below)
- Negative TB skin test or chest x-ray (refer to guidelines below)

These admission requirements meet the minimum standards described as one of the program core standards in the PPNP.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for registration with CLPNBC, whose first language is not English, must provide evidence of English language proficiency, as required by the CLPNBC (July 1, 2011; revised November 2012).

The four (4) language proficiency criteria are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This requirement may be met by successfully completing one of the following tests:

IELTS

Successful completion of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with the following scores:

Overall band score	7.0
Speaking	7.0
Listening	7.5
Reading	6.5
Writing	7.0

CELBAN

Successful completion of the Canadian English Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN) with the following scores:

Speaking	8
Listening	10
Reading	8
Writing	7

ADDITIONAL CLPNBC REQUIREMENTS

The CLPNBC requires that the language proficiency requirement must be completed prior to writing the CPNRE. Discovery Community College requires that this be completed prior to admission into the program.

Language proficiency test results must be completed no more than two years prior to the CLPNBC's review of application for registration. Therefore, Discovery Community College recommends that applicants to a PN program complete their language proficiency tests no more than three months before the start of their program. Language proficiency tests completed earlier may have to be re-taken for CLPNBC registration.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Discovery Community College refers to the Practice Education Guidelines for BC (www.hspcanada.net/managing/content-management.asp) for guidance on immunization requirements in Regional Health Authorities. All health care staff (including students and PSI educators) should be protected against vaccine preventable diseases. Health care organization (HCO) immunization guidelines and policies are based on the Communicable Diseases and Immunization Guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Canadian Public Health Agency.

The Practice Education Guideline 1-3 (PEG 1-3) outlines the immunizations required for students and on site PSI educators for experiences in practice education settings, including the requirements for maintaining current records of immunizations.

Required immunizations (practice education guideline #1-3):

- Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis – basic immunization series plus booster / reinforcement dose within the last ten years.
- Poliomyelitis – basic immunization series plus single booster dose 10 years after primary series.
- Measles/mumps/rubella – those born prior to 1957 are considered to have acquired natural immunity; those born on or after January 1, 1957 require proof of two doses of MMR vaccine or reactive serological test for immunity. Please review the PEG 1-3 for more detailed information.
- Hepatitis B – recommended for those who may be exposed to blood or body fluids, or who are at risk of sharps injury, bites, or penetrating injuries.
- Varicella (chicken pox) – required for those individuals with negative titers or those with no history of the disease.
- Influenza – required annually as per BC Provincial policy. Individuals who choose not to receive vaccination must wear a surgical procedure mask at all times in the practice education setting.
- Tuberculin status – negative skin test dated within six months of the first practice education placement within a receiving agency. For those with a positive skin test (10 mm of induration or greater) at the last test, a negative chest x-ray within one year of the first practice education placement within the receiving agency.

All students and on site PSI educators must meet the PN immunization guidelines and policies in order to engage in a practice education experience.

Immunization records for students and PSI educators must be maintained and stored by the PSI. Proof of immunization must be available upon request by the HCO; the HCO may request these records at any time in preparation for, or during the placement.

Students and PSI educators with a positive test for a blood borne communicable disease are not required to disclose this information.

Any student whose immunization status does not meet these guidelines before the first practice education placement may not be accepted by the receiving agency. Students who cannot be placed in a practice education experience cannot graduate from this program and will be withdrawn.

Applicants and/or students who are unable to comply with these immunization guidelines cannot be accepted into the Practical Nurse Access program.

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS

Discovery Community College will submit each applicant's criminal record check (CRC) on-line to the Criminal Record Review Program (CRRP). The status of the CRC does not automatically prevent an applicant from attending this program. However, any CRC that reveals "relevant" offences may make it difficult or impossible to place the student in a practice experience. Students who cannot be placed in a practice experience cannot meet the learning outcomes for that particular experience; therefore they cannot graduate from this program and will be withdrawn.

Some practice experience hosts may require their own criminal record check. It is the student's responsibility to provide this directly to the host. If the criminal record check reveals information that raises concerns relevant to the placement the host may decline the placement. Students who cannot be placed in a practice experience cannot graduate from this program and will be withdrawn.

A criminal record check is a requirement for registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC (CLPNBC). The CLPNBC may not register or license any applicant who has a relevant criminal record. We strongly recommend that applicants who are concerned about their criminal record complete both their CRC through the CRRP and their CRC through the RCMP before they begin the Practical Nurse program.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND ACTIVITIES

This program is offered over 75-weeks (1,640 hours) and will include 388 hours of consolidated practice experience, and 212 hours of final practice experience (including transition). Class schedules (days of the week and time of day) vary and applicants will be given this information

during their admission process. Students are in class a minimum of 20 hours each week (emergencies excepted). Schedules while on consolidated practice experience and final practice experience will vary depending on facility and/or host requirements. Schedules are subject to change; including weeks allocated to classroom and practice experience, days of the week used, and class times.

Practice experience placements will be at a variety of sites in a Regional Health Authority. Students may have to travel outside of their home community to attend practice experience placements. All placement schedules are subject to the capacity available in the host facility and students may be required to work variable shifts (including 12 hour shifts). Students must be able to attend their scheduled practice experience placements; it is important to know that these may be scheduled on days, evenings, weekends, and statutory holidays. Students will be required to supply their own transportation to their placements and to assume other related costs.

There may be off-site field trips arranged during the program as opportunity and resources allow. Students will be required to supply their own transportation for these.

The instructor will use various strategies including lectures, group discussion, student practice, videos, and guest speakers. Opportunities may occur for the students to use computer software to design and make presentations and to complete assignments.

RESOURCES

The required textbooks for this program will be distributed as needed during the courses. The instructor will supply other resources such as handouts and references to websites.

The College will assist those students who do not have access to computers, by arranging extra access hours to the computer classrooms at the college.

You will be learning in a well-equipped classroom and nursing skills simulation centre.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Student progress and success will be assessed regularly throughout the program. This will be accomplished using a variety of evaluation tools; these are fully described in course outlines. The passing grade for each course is 70% except pharmacology (refer to the course outline).

Final transcripts will record all marks for courses within the program.

Students are required to pass all courses and consolidated practice experiences at each level of the program before moving on to the next level. Students unable to proceed to the next level will be withdrawn from the program.

Rewrites of Assignments, Tests, and Exams

Students who have failed a course but who have satisfactory attendance in that course (90%) may be given the opportunity to resubmit up to two assignments or to rewrite up to two exams. Before resubmitting or rewriting the student will be required to follow the instructor's directions for remedial study of theory and/or practice of skills.

Consolidated Practice Experiences and Final Practice Experience

Practice experiences will be at a variety of sites in the health authority region. Students must have successfully completed all of the courses in each semester prior to attending that semester's practice experience.

Students are expected to come prepared to provide nursing care to the clients assigned to them by their instructor or supervisor. This preparation is of paramount importance to your success in this program, to your career as a nurse, and to the provision of safe care to clients assigned to you. Students who come to their practice experience unprepared may be asked to leave the practice area. While on their practice experiences students must portray a professional image and maintain standards of safety.

Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination

Each province and territory is responsible for ensuring that applicants for licensure/registration as a practical nurse meet an acceptable level of competence before they begin to practice. This level of competence is measured, in part, by the *Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE)* administered by the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities.

The purpose of the CPNRE is to protect the public by ensuring that the entry-level practical nurse possesses the competencies required to practice safely and effectively. These competencies are the integrated knowledge, skills, behaviour, and clinical judgment expected of an entry-level practical nurse in order to provide safe, competent, and ethical care. The January 2012 CPNRE tests 84 competencies. Refer to www.cpnre.ca for further information including the *CPNRE Blueprint 2012-2016*, the list of competencies, preparation for writing the exam, information about the *CPNRE Prep Guide* and the *CPNRE Predictor Test*, and a list of exam dates.

Students must have successfully completed all aspects of their education prior to writing the CPNRE. The CPNRE is held in January, May, and September of each year. There is an examination fee which includes interim registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia (CLPNBC). Please refer to the CLPNBC at www.clpnbc.org for more information.

NOTICE

Information contained in this curriculum guide is correct at the time of publication. Content of courses and programs is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment, and marketing needs. Students will be given notice of any changes as soon as possible.