

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Practical Nurse Access Program

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Development Date: October 2012

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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 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 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 health care professionals. Most 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 is taken from the BCCNP website "types of nurses" June 2020).

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 BCCNP.
- 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 | |
| DCC Orientation Week | 20 |
| CPR C | 6 |
| 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 |
| Total | 646 |
| 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 |
| Total | 312 |
| Level IV | |
| PN 430 Professional Practice 4 | 20 |
| PN 431 Professional Communication 4 | 20 |

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| 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 |
| Total | 496 |
| | |
| PN 538 Transition to Final Practice Experience | 32 |
| PN 539 Final practice Experience | 180 |
| Total | 212 |

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.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND ACTIVITIES

This program is offered over 76-weeks (1,666 hours) and will include 388 hours of consolidated practice experience, and 212 hours of final practice experience (including transition). This program may be offered in two delivery models:

- In person in the classroom and simulation centre at the DCC campus with practice experience placements in the community
- In person online for classroom courses and in the simulation centre at the DCC campus with practice experiences in the community

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.

For online learning students will require a suitable device such as a laptop computer (preferably using Windows operating system), and access to internet services. We recommend a laptop with a keyboard (not just touch screen) and additional devices such as a cell phone.

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 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 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 British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP). Please refer to the BCCNP at www.bccnp.ca for more information.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- Grade 12 graduation, or equivalent (General Education Development, Adult Basic Education), or mature student status (19 years of age as of program start date)
- Math 11 Foundations with a minimum grade of 60% or equivalent
- English 12 with a minimum grade of 65% or English First Peoples 12 with a minimum grade of 65%, or equivalent
- Anatomy and Physiology 12 with a minimum grade of 60%, or equivalent
- A certificate in one of the following programs:
 - Health Care Assistant (HCA) or Resident Care Attendant (RCA) or a combined Home Support / Resident Care Attendant (HS/RCA)
- 600 hours of work experience as an HCA or RCA or HS/RCA within the last two years, in a hospital or residential care facility where care is provided to a group of clients:
 - Work experience must include providing care to multiple patients/residents at one time where prioritizing and critical thinking are required
 - Work experience must be verified by an official employer letter
 - Working in a home care environment where one person is cared for at a time will not meet this 600-hour requirement

DCC also requires applicants to:

- Submit completed DCC application forms
- Complete an entrance interview with a DCC official
- Sign consent for a criminal record check under the Criminal Records Review Program (refer to notes under “Criminal Records Checks” below)

DCC accepts as equivalent:

- Grade 12 graduation:
 - ICES assessment of international applicant, equivalent graduation from a Province or Territory of Canada
- Math 11 Foundations:
 - Pre-calculus 11 with a grade of 60%, Applications of Math 12 with a grade of 60%, Math 11 Principles with a grade of 60% (prior to 2012), B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institution equivalent courses, Discovery Community College *Math for Health Care* with a grade of C, equivalent Math 11 from a Province or Territory of Canada

- English 12:
 - Technical and Professional Communication 12 with a grade of 65%, B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institution equivalent courses, Language Proficiency Index (LPI) level 5, Discovery Community College *Communications for Health Care* with a grade of C+, equivalent English 12 from a Province or Territory of Canada
- Anatomy and Physiology 12:
 - Biology 12 with a grade of 60%, B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institution equivalent courses, Discovery Community College *Biology for Health Care* with a grade of C, equivalent Anatomy and Physiology 12 or Biology 12 from a Province or Territory of Canada

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

- Human Anatomy and Physiology for Practical Nurses with a minimum grade of 65% must be achieved before taking: Variations in Health A, Health Promotion A, Pharmacology A, Integrated Nursing Practice A, and Consolidated Practice Experience A

Applicants must complete these requirements prior to starting Consolidated Practice Experience A:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as outlined in the Practice Education Guidelines (http://hspanada.net/docs/PEG/1_6_Orientation_Students.pdf)
 - DCC requires completion of CPR level C and it must be valid until program end date
 - DCC will arrange this workshop during Level 1
- Criminal Record Check under the terms of the Criminal Records Review Act and the Ministry of Justice process for educational institutions (refer to notes under “Criminal Record Check Guidelines” below)
- Immunization as outlined in the Practice Education Guidelines (http://hspanada.net/docs/PEG/1_3_Immunization.pdf) and/or 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)

English as an Additional Language

As English is the language of study in BC, students must meet English language proficiency at an appropriate level to be accepted into the provincial Practical Nursing program. These requirements can be satisfied through three years of full-time, face-to-face secondary or post-secondary education at an accredited institution where English is the language of instruction and is also one of the country’s official languages. English as a Second Language / Additional Language courses are not included in this three-year calculation. Applicants not meeting this requirement 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 Assessments for Nurses (CELBAN) with minimum scores of:
 - Speaking 8.0

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|-------------|------|
| ▪ Listening | 10.0 |
| ▪ Reading | 8.0 |
| ▪ Writing | 7.0 |

In addition to meeting English language requirements for the Practical Nursing program, graduates must be able to demonstrate a level of proficiency required to be performance ready as a condition for registration and practice in British Columbia. See the BCCNP's website for details.

Transfer Credit

Discovery Community College will consider prior academic work for transfer credit. Transfer credit is granted at the sole discretion of the College. Some important points:

- Applications should be received at least thirty (30) days prior to a program start
- An official (original) transcript will be required
- Other documents will be required

The Director of Education, in collaboration with the Registrar and the Practical Nurse Program Manager, will determine transfer credit eligibility. College personnel will refer to the DCC Transfer Credit Policy.

Immunization Guidelines

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 always wear a surgical procedure mask 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 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 Record Checks Guidelines

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 British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP). The BCCNP 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.

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.