

Area of Interest: Health Sciences

## Practical Nursing Pathway for Personal Support Worker

Ontario College Diploma

Program Code: 1704A01FPM

2 Years

Pembroke Campus

### Our Program

#### **Contribute to a healthcare team and support excellence in patient care.**

The Practical Nursing Ontario College Diploma program prepares you for work in the healthcare system. You learn the necessary skills and techniques for the workforce. This includes assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation tools required to provide nursing care to those of all ages. Throughout the program, learning opportunities include theory, lab techniques, applied experiences and independent study.

As a student, you have the opportunity to gain hands-on skills in a variety of healthcare facilities. An added benefit of this program is the Simulation Lab and other Nursing labs on campus, where you experience realistic simulation scenarios. These help you to build confidence in your skills and techniques before working with patients in clinical placements. Placements are in community settings such as retirement homes, long term care homes and hospitals.

To practice as a Registered Practical Nurse in Ontario, you are required to be licensed by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). This program gives you the necessary knowledge and skills to write the Regulatory Exam-Practical Nurse (REx-PN) in Ontario.

Registered Practical Nurses work in close collaboration with healthcare teams. You may find employment on a team in a variety of:

- community clinics
- private homes
- long-term care homes
- medical, surgical and obstetrical units

You may also choose to pursue further studies after graduation.

For more information on the Nursing Profession, please review the Fact Sheet Requisite Skills and Abilities for Nursing Practice in Ontario, available on the CNO website <https://www.cno.org/>

### Employment

To practice as a Registered Practical Nurse in Ontario, graduates must be licensed by the College of Nurses of Ontario. This program gives you the necessary knowledge and skills to write the Regulatory Exam - Practical Nurse (Rex-PN) in Ontario.

Registered Practical Nurses work in close collaboration with healthcare teams. You may find employment in a variety of settings such as community clinics, private homes, long term care homes, as well as medical, surgical, rehabilitative and obstetrical units.

For more information on the Nursing Profession, please review the Fact Sheet Requisite Skills and Abilities for Nursing Practice in Ontario, available on the CNO website at <https://www.cno.org/>

### Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Communicate therapeutically with clients and members of the healthcare team.
- Assess clients across the life span, in a systematic and holistic manner.
- Plan safe and competent nursing care, based upon a thorough analysis of available data and evidence-informed practice guidelines.
- Select and perform nursing interventions using clinical judgment, in collaboration with the client and, where appropriate, the healthcare team, that promote health and well-being, prevent disease and injury, maintain and/or restore health, promote rehabilitation, and/or provide palliation.
- Evaluate the outcomes resulting from all interventions in the nurse-client interaction and modify the plan of care as required.
- Act equitably and justly with clients and members of the healthcare team.
- Adapt to a variety of healthcare settings, using different leadership skills and styles as appropriate to each setting.
- Contribute to creating a healthy and safe work environment in a variety of healthcare settings.
- Practise in a self-regulated, professional and ethical manner, complying with relevant legislation and with the standards of both the regulatory body and the practice setting to provide safe and competent client care.
- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

## Program of Study

Level: 02	Courses	Hours
BIO7203	Anatomy and Physiology II	42.0
ENL7645	Communication Skills for the Practical Nurse	42.0
NSG7320	Nursing II Theory	70.0
NSG7323	Nursing Research	28.0
NSG7325	Health Assessment	56.0
NSG7327M	Nursing II Practicum (M)	128.0
Choose one from equivalencies: Courses		Hours
GED1704	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 03	Courses	Hours
NSG7158	Pharmacology	42.0
NSG7159	Pathophysiology	28.0
NSG7330	Nursing III Theory	70.0
NSG7334L	Nursing III Practicum (L)	42.0
NSG7334P	Nursing III Practicum (P)	154.0
Choose one from equivalencies: Courses		Hours

GED1704	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 04	Courses	Hours
NSG7340	Nursing IV Theory	36.0
NSG7342L	Nursing IV Practicum (L)	18.0
NSG7342P	Nursing IV Practicum (P)	112.0
NSG7343	Current Issues	27.0
NSG7344	Consolidation II - Clinical	320.0
NSG7351	RPN Exam Prep	14.0

## Fees for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro/pay/fee-estimator/>

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro/>

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

Students should budget for additional costs to cover nursing uniforms, shoes, manual blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, bandage scissors, a watch with a second hand and travel (including parking at clinical agencies during their practicum experiences).

Books, supplies and other program incidentals can be purchased at the campus bookstore.

Program materials including texts and lab kits are approximately \$2,100 for year 1 and \$1,100 for year 2.

The fee for the Regulatory Exam-Practical Nurse (Rex-PN), Jurisprudence Exam, application process and initial registration are available at <https://www.cno.org/>

## Admission Requirements for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

### College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent;
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high sch diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing, for which a fee will be charged.

### Program Eligibility

- Have Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent resident status or appropriate authorization under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) that permits an individual to engage in the practice of nursing in Ontario.
- Graduated with a 65% cumulative average from a PSW program in Ontario that meets the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities program standards (includes PSW programs offered by the public colleges, private career colleges, and district school boards in Ontario).
- Have worked as a PSW in Ontario within the past five years on at least a part-time or casual basis in a regulated environment. Applicants are to provide a current resume/cv that includes all relevant work experience in the PSW field.

- Students who meet the above pathway eligibility criteria will be required to complete the six bridging courses ( <https://www.algonquincollege.com/online/psw-to-pn-pathway/> ). Students who successfully complete each of the above pathway courses with a minimum passing grade of 60% (80% in Math for Practical Nurses) are eligible to apply through the Ontario Colleges' Application Service (OCAS) for direct admission into Semester Two of the Practical Nursing program.

## **Admission Requirements for 2025/2026 Academic Year**

### **College Eligibility**

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee will be charged.

### **Program Eligibility**

- Have Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent resident status or appropriate authorization under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) that permits an individual to engage in the practice of nursing in Ontario.
- Graduated with a 65% cumulative average from a PSW program in Ontario that meets the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities program standards (includes PSW programs offered by the public colleges, private career colleges, and district school boards in Ontario).
- Have worked as a PSW in Ontario within the past five years on at least a part-time or casual basis in a regulated environment. Applicants are to provide a current resume/cv that includes all relevant work experience in the PSW field.
- Students who meet the above pathway eligibility criteria will be required to complete the six bridging courses. Students who successfully complete each of the above pathway courses with a minimum passing grade of 60% (80% in Math for Practical Nurses) are eligible to apply through the Ontario Colleges' Application Service (OCAS) for direct admission into Semester Two of the Practical Nursing program. For more information please visit:  
<http://www.algonquincollege.com/online/psw-to-pn-pathway>

## **Application Information**

### **PRACTICAL NURSING Program Code 1704A01FPM**

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

<https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en>

60 Corporate Court  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 5J3  
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en>

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information:  
<https://algonquincollege.my.site.com/myac360/s/self-registration-page>

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office  
Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley  
1 College Way Pembroke, ON K8A0C8  
Local: 613-735-4700  
Toll-free 1-800-565-4723  
TTY: 1-866-620-3845  
Fax: 613-735-4739  
<https://www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/>

## **Additional Information**

This full-time day program is also offered at the Perth, Perley Rideau Health and Woodroffe campuses. While the learning outcomes at all campuses are the same, the subject delivery is reflective of local circumstances that affect program delivery. Unless there are extenuating and exceptional circumstances, students are required to stay enrolled at the campus to which they were first accepted. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the request must be made to the Chair of the registered campus, with supporting documentation attached. The transfer decision is made at the Chair level.

Unless there are extenuating and exceptional circumstances, students are required to stay enrolled at the campus to which they were first accepted. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the request must be made to the Chair of the registered campus, with supporting documentation attached. The transfer decision is made at the Chair level.

Clinical Placements may occur anywhere in Renfrew County and transportation must be provided by the student. Where clinical placement agencies require photo ID, the student is responsible for obtaining the photo ID prior to clinical placement. Students will not be permitted to attend clinical without the photo ID. Not all students will have clinical placements in specialty areas (ie: pediatrics, maternity, mental health, acute medicine and surgery).

Clinical Placements receive large numbers of health science students and there may be times during your program of study that require you to attend weekend, evening and night clinical experiences. Clinical placements may be within the city or region and students are required to travel accordingly. Not all students will have clinical placements in specialty areas (i.e. pediatrics, mental health, acute medicine or surgery).

Healthcare partners offering clinical placement opportunities have mandatory vaccine requirements. If you have questions or concerns about these, or any other placement requirements, consult your Program Coordinator prior to registering.

For consideration of medical exemptions related to immunization and vaccinations, documentation must be provided to Paramed's Placement Pass for review.

If medically exempt from the influenza vaccine, please note:

- Facilities have the prerogative to require the influenza vaccine in order to proceed with placement and can refuse students who do not have the influenza vaccine.
- The event of an influenza outbreak, learners will have to abide by facility policies.

The Practical Nursing program highly recommends that all applicants review the CNO Fact Sheet - Requisite Skills and Abilities for Nursing Practice in Ontario - available at <https://www.cno.org/>

Registration requirements for RPNs are found at the College of Nurses of Ontario website. They include but are not limited to, the following:

- completion of the registration examination
- completion of the jurisprudence examination
- demonstration of language proficiency in English or French
- proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent residency of Canada
- declaration of any past offences and findings

- declaration of any physical or mental conditions or disorders that could affect your ability to practice nursing

A complete list of requirements can be found at [www.cno.org](http://www.cno.org). Specific information will be contained in the package you receive from the CNO prior to your exams.

## **Course Descriptions**

### **BIO7203 Anatomy and Physiology II**

An understanding of human biology is essential to nurses. Lectures build on previous foundational knowledge in human anatomy and physiology. Learners focus on the reproductive, cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary, digestive, and lymphatic systems. Integration of all body systems in maintaining normal human functioning is explored.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7201

Corerequisite(s):none

### **ENL7645 Communication Skills for the Practical Nurse**

Given the variety and complexity of interactions in which nurses regularly engage, their verbal communication skills must be adaptable to numerous situations and contexts. Furthermore, nurses must write legal documents, and this necessitates a high level of competency with regard to research and written communication. Students examine and apply verbal and non-verbal techniques that assist them in managing inter-professional conflict, bullying and the demands of a client centered care environment. In addition, students apply critical thinking skills and the guidelines mandated by the College of Nurses of Ontario in the composition of vocation-specific written assignments.

Prerequisite(s): ENL7777

Corerequisite(s):none

### **GED1704 General Education Elective**

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science & Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

### **GED1704 General Education Elective**

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science & Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

### **NSG7158 Pharmacology**

Pharmacology is an integral part of nursing care and nurses play a critical role in medication management in various settings within the health-care system. Learners examine differing pharmacotherapeutic agents used in prevention, maintenance and/or treatment of illness. Focus is on pharmacological concepts through the lifespan.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7203 and NSG7320 and NSG7325 and NSG7327M

Corerequisite(s):none

### **NSG7159 Pathophysiology**



This course examines the basic concepts of disease processes which effect physiologic and psychosocial health. Learners study concepts pertaining to disease processes affecting all major systems in the body from a nursing perspective.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7203 and NSG7320 and NSG7325 and NSG7327M  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **NSG7320 Nursing II Theory**

Nursing is a dynamic and challenging profession that involves caring for persons across a continuum of age and diverse environments with varying levels of complexity. Nursing concepts and theories that promote healthy growth and development across the lifespan are explored. Emphasis is placed on person-centred care to promote healthy living. Focus is on growth and development concepts through the lifespan.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7201 and NSG7310 and NSG7312L and NSG7312P and NSG7313  
Corerequisite(s):NSG7325 and NSG7327M

### **NSG7323 Nursing Research**

Nursing practice is informed by a variety of evidence. Learners are introduced to the knowledge and skills necessary to support the development of evidence-informed practice. Emphasis is placed on valuing nursing research and evidence-informed practice, ethics of research, locating and critiquing research to inform practice.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none

### **NSG7325 Health Assessment**

Health assessment is an essential framework to provide holistic assessments of clients across the lifespan. Learners apply a systematic and person centred approach to health assessment. Emphasis is placed on health promotion concepts. Learners practice and apply theoretical concepts in classroom and laboratory settings. Learners participate in lectures, group work, online learning, simulations and applied learning.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7201 and NSG7310 and NSG7312L and NSG7312P and NSG7313  
Corerequisite(s):NSG7320 and NSG7327M

### **NSG7327M Nursing II Practicum (M)**

Nurses care for persons across the lifespan promoting healthy living that is person-centred. Learners apply health promotion through interviewing, assessing, learning-teaching and providing caring interventions while working with persons and/or families. Through goal planning, group discussion, and applied assignments in practicum placement, learners practise and adapt to various clinical experiences effectively. Learners are guided by an on-site instructor via a group teaching-learning model. This practicum experience requires travel to an off-campus location.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7201 and NSG7310 and NSG7312L and NSG7312P and NSG7313  
Corerequisite(s):NSG7320 and NSG7325

### **NSG7330 Nursing III Theory**

Health care professionals require an understanding of the needs of persons experiencing acute and chronic illnesses across the lifespan. Building on previous knowledge in the PN program, emphasis is placed on the nursing process, a person-centred approach and holistic care that is evidence-informed. Learners participate in lectures, case studies and mobile learning activities.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7203 and NSG7320 and NSG7325 and NSG7327M  
Corerequisite(s):NSG7334L and NSG7334P

### **NSG7334L Nursing III Practicum (L)**

Caring for persons living with health challenges requires knowledge, skills and critical thinking ability. Through the use of simulation and hands on learning, learners apply knowledge and skills in a simulated learning environment prior to application in the clinical setting. In the lab, learners systematically analyze information and practice and implement fundamental nursing interventions based on evidence-informed practice.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7203 and NSG7320 and NSG7325 and NSG7327M

Corerequisite(s): NSG7330 and NSG7334P

### **NSG7334P Nursing III Practicum (P)**

Persons being cared for in acute care facilities rely on nurses to help promote quality of life as defined by the person. This practicum course provides learners with the opportunity to deliver holistic nursing care activities for patients and families experiencing acute and chronic illness. Learners are assigned to an off-campus health care facility and are responsible for assessing patients and their families, providing care to meet their needs, evaluating and documenting the care provided, all under the guidance and supervision of a clinical instructor.

Prerequisite(s): BIO7203 and NSG7320 and NSG7325 and NSG7327M

Corerequisite(s): NSG7330 and NSG7334L

### **NSG7340 Nursing IV Theory**

Nursing is a dynamic and challenging process that involves caring for clients across a continuum of age and diverse environments with varying levels of complexity. Using the nursing process and focused clinical exemplars, learners assess patients, intervene to meet identified needs, and evaluate the care they provide in complex health situations. Through lectures, case studies and online learning, this course prepares students for clinical practice.

Prerequisite(s): NSG0159 and NSG7158 and NSG7330 and NSG7334L and NSG7334P

Corerequisite(s): NSG7342L and NSG7342P

### **NSG7342L Nursing IV Practicum (L)**

Caring for persons living with health challenges requires knowledge, skills and critical thinking ability. Through the use of simulation and hands on learning, students apply knowledge and skills in a simulated learning environment prior to application in the clinical setting. In the lab, students systematically analyze information, and practise and implement fundamental nursing interventions based on evidence-informed practice.

Prerequisite(s): NSG0159 and NSG7158 and NSG7334L

Corerequisite(s): NSG7340 and NSG7342P

### **NSG7342P Nursing IV Practicum (P)**

Caring for persons living with health challenges requires knowledge, skills and critical thinking ability. This Practicum course provides learners with the opportunity to integrate prior learning in the program to care for acutely ill patients, with a primary focus on the person requiring acute medical/surgical healthcare. Learners are assigned to an off campus health care facility and are responsible for providing caring assessments, interventions, evaluations and documentation under the guidance of a clinical instructor.

Prerequisite(s): NSG7158 and NSG7159 and NSG7330 and NSG7334P

Corerequisite(s): NSG7340 and NSG7342L

### **NSG7343 Current Issues**

Concepts of professionalism, legal and ethical standards of practice are foundational to nursing. Practice standards and guidelines from the College of Nurses of Ontario are used to enable the learner to gain insight into the professional roles and responsibilities of the practical nurse. In-class and/or mobile learning activities such as lectures, clinical exemplars, discussions and assignments focus on preparing learners for clinical practice and the College of Nurses of Ontario Jurisprudence Exam.



Prerequisite(s): NSG7330 and NSG7334L and NSG7334P  
Corerequisite(s):none

**NSG7344 Consolidation II - Clinical**

Persons living with acute and chronic illness rely on nurses to promote healthy living. This course provides novice nursing students with the opportunity to focus on a clinical area of interest, consolidate prior learning, and develop their knowledge base and nursing practice expertise. Learners are responsible for caring activities such as assessment, interviewing, nursing interventions and documentation for individuals and/or families in off-campus settings such as hospitals, agencies or home care. In collaboration with a registered nursing preceptor the learner provides care, develops goals, and reflects on practice in order to be able to develop independence with various clinical experiences. An off-site instructor supervises progression in collaboration with the preceptor.

Prerequisite(s): NSG7340 and NSG7342L and NSG7342P and NSG7343  
Corerequisite(s):none

**NSG7351 RPN Exam Prep**

Graduates must pass a Practical Nursing licensing exam in order to practice in the province of Ontario. Students develop key strategies to support the format and expectations of a licensing exams. Topics include strategies for writing multiple choice exams, as well as techniques for organizing personal study groups. Anxiety and stress control techniques are discussed and practiced. Students have multiple opportunities to write authentic practice exams, discuss answers and develop strategies to strengthen test-taking skills.

Prerequisite(s): none  
Corerequisite(s):none