

Area of Interest: Health Sciences

Practical Nursing Pathway for Personal Support Worker

Ontario College Diploma

Program Code: 1704A01FWO

2 Years

Ottawa 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 on campus, where you experience realistic patient care scenarios. These help 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 a variety of settings such as:

- 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 at <https://www.cno.org/>.

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Enjoy working with and accepting people of all ages and stages of development and of varying backgrounds.
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Enjoy working with others as a member of a team or in a leadership role.
- Possess strong problem-solving and analytical skills.
- Are dedicated patient advocates.
- Can handle physically demanding situations.

- Are mature and flexible.
- Can work any scheduled shifts in a 24-hour period.
- Are proficient in math.

Employment

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Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Communicate therapeutically with clients and members of the health-care 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 health-care 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 health-care 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 health-care 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
BIO5203	Anatomy and Physiology II	42.0
ENL5645	Communication Skills for the Practical Nurse	42.0
NSG0160M	Nursing II Practicum (M)	128.0
NSG5120	Nursing II Theory	70.0
NSG5123	Nursing Research	28.0
NSG5125	Health Assessment	56.0
Level: 03	Courses	Hours
NSG0158	Pharmacology	42.0
NSG0159	Pathophysiology	28.0
NSG5130	Nursing III Theory	70.0
NSG5133L	Nursing III Practicum (L)	42.0
NSG5133P	Nursing III Practicum (P)	154.0
Level: 04	Courses	Hours
NSG0151	RPN Exam Prep	14.0
NSG5140	Nursing IV Theory	36.0
NSG5142L	Nursing IV Practicum (L)	18.0
NSG5142P	Nursing IV Practicum (P)	112.0
NSG5143	Current Issues	27.0
NSG5144A	Consolidation Clinical (A)	320.0

Fees for the 2024/2025 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/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, stethoscope and travel including parking at clinical agencies during their practicum experiences.
- The cost of textbooks is approximately \$1,500 in the first year and \$1,000 in year two. Some textbooks are optional and students can utilize those in the Resource Centre.
- The fees 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 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>

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Application Information

PRACTICAL NURSING PATHWAY FOR PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER **Program Code 1704A01FWO**

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

ontariocolleges.ca
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/>.

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission 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.force.com/myACint/>.

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

Additional Information

This full-time day program is also offered at the Pembroke and Perth campuses. While the learning outcomes at all three campuses are the same, the subject delivery is reflective of local circumstances which may 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.

Please remember that repeating any course is always dependent upon seat availability.

If you opt out of the program for any reason during any semester, you may be advised back into the academic cycle when the next required semester is offered, based on space availability for classroom or clinical courses. You may have to sit out if there is no spot available when you want to return to full-time studies.

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 also found at the College of Nurses of Ontario website. They include but are not limited to, the following:

- Complete the registration examination.
- Complete the jurisprudence examination.

- Demonstrate language proficiency in English or French.
- Complete a Declaration of Registration Requirements.

Specific information will be contained in the package you receive from the CNO prior to your licensing exams.

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 the region and students are required to travel accordingly. Not all students will have clinical placements in specialty areas (i.e. pediatrics, maternity, mental health, acute medicine and surgery).

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

Clinical placements include Long-Term Care so students are required to have the flu vaccine, and the COVID vaccine as well. For consideration of medical exemptions related to immunization and vaccinations, documentation must be provided to Paramed for review.

If medically exempt from the Flu vaccine, please note:

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

Course Descriptions

BIO5203 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): BIO5200
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL5645 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): ENL1813S
Corerequisite(s):none

NSG0151 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

NSG0158 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 the prevention, maintenance and/or treatment of illness. Focus is on pharmacological concepts through the lifespan.

Prerequisite(s): BIO5203 and NSG0160M and NSG5120 and NSG5125

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG0159 Pathophysiology

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

Prerequisite(s): BIO5203 and NSG0160M and NSG5120 and NSG5125

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG0160M Nursing II Practicum (M)

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

Prerequisite(s): BIO5200 and NSG5110 and NSG5112L and NSG5112P and NSG5113

Corerequisite(s):NSG5120 and NSG5125

NSG5120 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-centered care to promote healthy living. Focus is on growth and development concepts through the lifespan.

Prerequisite(s): BIO5200 and NSG5110 and NSG5112L and NSG5112P and NSG5113

Corerequisite(s):NSG0160M and NSG5125

NSG5123 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 and locating and critiquing research to inform practice. Learners engage in both classroom and online learning.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG5125 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): BIO5200 and NSG5110 and NSG5112L and NSG5112P and NSG5113

Corerequisite(s): NSG0160M and NSG5120

NSG5130 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-centered approach and holistic care that is evidence-informed. Learners participate in lectures, case studies, and mobile learning activities.

Prerequisite(s): BIO5203 and NSG0160M and NSG5120 and NSG5123 and NSG5125

Corerequisite(s): NSG5133L and NSG5133P

NSG5133L 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): BIO5203 and NSG0160M and NSG5120 and NSG5125

Corerequisite(s): NSG5130 and NSG5133P

NSG5133P Nursing III Practicum (P)

Persons being cared for in sub-acute and 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 and evaluating and documenting the care provided; all under the guidance and supervision of a clinical instructor.

Prerequisite(s): BIO5203 and NSG0160M and NSG5120 and NSG5125

Corerequisite(s): NSG5130 and NSG5133L

NSG5140 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, through discussion of a variety of 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 learners for clinical practice.

Prerequisite(s): NSG0158 and NSG0159 and NSG5130 and NSG5133L and NSG5133P

Corerequisite(s): NSG5142L and NSG5142P

NSG5142L 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, 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): NSG0158 and NSG0159 and NSG5133L

Corerequisite(s): NSG5140 and NSG5142P

NSG5142P 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): NSG0158 and NSG0159 and NSG5130 and NSG5133P

Corerequisite(s): NSG5140 and NSG5142L

NSG5143 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. Focus is on preparing learners for clinical practice and the College of Nurses of Ontario Jurisprudence Exam.

Prerequisite(s): NSG5130 and NSG5133L and NSG5133P

Corerequisite(s): none

NSG5144A Consolidation Clinical (A)

Persons living with acute and chronic illness rely on nurses to promote healthy living. Novice nursing students are provided 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): NSG0151 and NSG5113 and NSG5123 and NSG5140 and NSG5142L and NSG5142P and NSG5143

Corerequisite(s): none