

Area of Interest: Healthcare and Wellness

Practical Nursing

Ontario College Diploma

Program Code: 1704X01FRT

2 Years

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

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

The two-year Practical Nursing Ontario College Diploma program prepares you for work in healthcare with the necessary knowledge, skills and judgement to contribute to a healthcare team and support excellence in patient-centred care. This includes the processes of assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating required to provide nursing care to individuals, families and populations.

Through classroom, lab and simulation, you build your nursing knowledge, skills, and judgement before working with patients in clinical placements. Our on-campus simulation labs allow you to experience realistic simulated patient care in a wide range of scenarios. You develop your nursing expertise within health care settings such as hospitals, long term care facilities, community agencies and retirement homes.

To practice as a Registered Practical Nurse in Ontario, you are required to be licensed by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). Graduates are eligible to write the REx-PN and Jurisprudence Exams which, once passed, allows you to register with the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Registered Practical Nurses work in close collaboration with healthcare teams. You may find employment a variety of settings such as:

- community clinics
- visiting nursing/in-home care
- retirement and long-term care homes
- hospitals
- educational facilities
- private practice

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 www.cno.org.

Employment

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 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 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: 01	Courses	Hours
BIO6151	Anatomy and Physiology	70.0
ENL1004	Professional Communication Essentials	42.0
NSG6100	Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 1	88.0
NSG6110	Practical Nursing Theory 1	56.0
NSG6111	Ethical, Legal and Professional Nursing Issues 1	28.0
NSG6112	Nursing Care of the Older Adult	28.0
NSG6120	Practical Nursing Lab 1	42.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
BIO6251	Pathophysiology	42.0
NSG6200	Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 2	112.0
NSG6210	Practical Nursing Theory 2	42.0
NSG6211	Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues 2	28.0
NSG6212	Nursing Health Assessment	28.0

NSG6213	Pharmacology 1	28.0
NSG6220	Practical Nursing Lab 2	56.0
Level: 03	Courses	Hours
NSG6300	Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 3	160.0
NSG6310	Practical Nursing Theory 3	42.0
NSG6311	Mental Health	28.0
NSG6312	Palliative & End of Life Care	28.0
NSG6313	Pharmacology 2	28.0
NSG6320	Practical Nursing Lab 3	42.0
Level: 04	Courses	Hours
NSG6400	Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 4	112.0
NSG6401	Integrated Clinical Practice	320.0
NSG6410	PN Community Care	27.0
NSG6411	Preparation for Professional Practice	27.0
NSG6412	PN Pediatric Care	27.0
NSG6413	PN Perinatal and Newborn Care	27.0
NSG6420	Practical Nursing Lab 4	27.0

Fees for the 2026/2027 Academic Year

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

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

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

A total of approximately \$500-\$1,000 and may comprise:

- Clinical clearance requirements (e.g., Police Vulnerable Sector Check, CPR, mask fit testing)
- Clinical attire and equipment (e.g., uniforms, clinical shoes, stethoscope, manual blood pressure cuff)
- Textbooks (costs vary by course delivery)
- Additional requirements and costs may be added as circumstances arise

Admission Requirements for the 2027/2028 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent

- 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

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent) with a grade of 65% or higher
- Mathematics, Grade 12 (MAP4C or equivalent) with a grade of 65% or higher
- Biology, Grade 11 or 12 with a grade of 65% or higher
- Chemistry, Grade 11 or 12 with a grade of 65% or higher.
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band OR TOEFL Internet-based (iBT) tests taken prior to January 21, 2026 overall 88, with a minimum in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22 OR TOEFL Internet-based (iBT) tests taken after January 21, 2026 overall 4.5, with a minimum in each component: Reading 4.5; Listening 4.5; Speaking 4.5; Writing 4.5 OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 120, minimum of 120 in Literacy and no score below 105.

International Applicants

International applicants who meet the program eligibility requirements are required to complete preparatory courses (4-months in duration): Introduction to Canadian Health Studies (ICHS). Students who successfully complete the introduction will then proceed to their original health program of choice. The ICHS requires applicants to submit an academic IELTS score.

Please click this link for more information

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/ICHS>

Application Information

PRACTICAL NURSING

Program Code 1704X01FRT

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 <http://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.my.site.com/myac360/s>

For further information on the admissions process, please visit:

Admissions - Registrar's Office <https://algonquincollege.com/ro/admissions>

Additional Information

This full-time program is offered at the Ottawa and Pembroke campuses. Learning outcomes are consistent; delivery may vary by location. Students are expected to remain at their accepted

campus. Transfers are considered only in extenuating circumstances and require Chair approval with supporting documentation. Students are responsible for travel to both academic and clinical destinations.

Course repetition, program withdrawal, and re-entry are subject to seat availability. Students may be required to wait until space is available in classroom or clinical courses.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) Requisite Skills and Abilities and registration requirements at www.cno.org. Registration requirements include completion of the registration and jurisprudence exams and demonstration of English or French language proficiency. Additional details are provided by the CNO prior to licensing.

Clinical placements may require evening, weekend, or night shifts, regional travel, and may not include all specialty areas. Placement agencies have mandatory immunization requirements, including influenza and COVID-19 vaccines for Long-Term Care. Medical exemptions must be reviewed by Paramed. Agencies may refuse placement or impose restrictions during outbreaks.

Clinical Placement Eligibility:

A clear Police Records Check for Service with the Vulnerable Sector (PRCSVS) is required for clinical placement. Students without a clear PRCSVS who are unable to participate in placement cannot graduate, as clinical placement is mandatory. A PRCSVS is required annually and more frequently if requested by placement agencies.

Accepted applicants must complete a Health Assessment Form and meet annual requirements, including TB testing, influenza vaccination, CPR Level C certification, and a clear PRCSVS, prior to starting clinical placement. Delays may impact program progression. Additional requirements may be added as circumstances arise.

Students must submit proof of a clear PRCSVS, disclose all contents to placement agencies, and obtain the PRCSVS from their local police service at their own cost. Processing times may be lengthy - apply early. For questions, contact the Program Chair.

Basic computer skills are required throughout the program.

Course Descriptions

BIO6151 Anatomy and Physiology

Foundational knowledge of human anatomy and physiology is essential to understanding how the human body functions. Students examine the structure and function of cells, tissues, organs and systems. Applying medical terminology and using real-life scenarios, students explore the integration of body systems in maintaining normal human functioning.

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

BIO6251 Pathophysiology

A solid understanding of pathophysiology equips nurses with the knowledge to assess and interpret signs and symptoms accurately and intervene in a timely manner to provide safe client care. Students examine the etiology of common health conditions, their pathogenesis, and the resulting changes at a cellular and organ level. Emphasis is on the clinical significance and functional consequences of health conditions, nursing assessment findings, laboratory investigations and diagnostic testing. Through presentations, case studies, and the sharing of experiential learning, students build their understanding of disease processes and mechanisms to prepare for clinical practice.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6151
Corerequisite(s):none

ENL1004 Professional Communication Essentials

Communication remains a fundamental skill regardless of discipline or field of study. Using an applied approach, students focus on writing, oral communication, and accessing and using information targeting different audiences in both workplace and academic settings. Students

develop and strengthen professional communication skills through a combination of lectures, in-class exercises, and independent learning.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG6100 Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 1

Nurses care for individuals across the lifespan promoting healthy living that is person-centered. Students gain practical experience applying knowledge and skills while also developing critical thinking skills required to safely and effectively provide care in the long-term care environment. Under supervision, students practice and adapt to a variety of gerontological care needs, in an off-campus long-term care setting.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):NSG6110 and NSG6120

NSG6110 Practical Nursing Theory 1

Nurses require essential knowledge and skills to deliver basic nursing care in a variety of healthcare settings. Students examine foundational concepts required for safe and effective client centered care. Using clinical judgement frameworks, students explore fundamentals of client centered care with a strong focus on developing critical thinking, promoting healthy relationships, and achieving optimal client outcomes.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):NSG6100 and NSG6120

NSG6111 Ethical, Legal and Professional Nursing Issues 1

Foundational concepts, standards, and ethics guide professional nursing practice. Students explore the role and scope of the nursing profession through pertinent legislation and regulation. Students examine different levels of health care, and the impact of social determinants of health on wellness. Through discussion and analysis of real-world scenarios, students develop knowledge and skills to provide ethical, evidence-informed, and culturally safe person and family-centered care.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG6112 Nursing Care of the Older Adult

Practical nurses require an in-depth understanding of the theories and practices essential to delivering high-quality nursing care for older adults. Students explore the unique holistic changes that occur with aging and examine nursing approaches that promote health, wellness, and quality of life for this population. Students examine age-related health conditions, ethical and legal considerations, and evidence-based practices tailored to the older adult's needs in a variety of healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on person-centered, culturally safe and holistic care approaches.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG6120 Practical Nursing Lab 1

Nursing is a hands-on profession requiring knowledge, critical thinking and competency of varied psychomotor skills. Students apply basic therapeutic communication and basic nursing care interventions in a lab setting. Through demonstrations, simulations and hands-on learning activities, students develop the skills required to provide basic nursing care.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):NSG6100 and NSG6110

NSG6200 Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 2

Caring for persons living with health challenges requires knowledge, skills and critical thinking ability. Students care for patients in sub-acute and acute care facilities, delivering holistic nursing care activities for patients and families experiencing acute and chronic illness. Students are responsible for assessing patients in an off-campus health care facility, 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): NSG6100 and NSG6110 and NSG6120

Corerequisite(s): NSG6210 and NSG6220

NSG6210 Practical Nursing Theory 2

Practical Nursing Theory 2 Practical nurses care for patients experiencing common health issues with rapid changes in condition. Students explore the assessment, monitoring, and management of acutely ill patients, with a focus on musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, and gastrointestinal issues. Through case study, simulation, and discussion, students develop skills in assessment, clinical decision-making, and intervention techniques essential for managing patient care needs.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6100 and NSG6110 and NSG6120

Corerequisite(s): NSG6200 and NSG6220

NSG6211 Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues 2

Legal requirements, ethics standards, evidence-informed practice and teaching and learning concepts are foundational to professional nursing. Students examine the application of teaching and learning concepts in the nursing profession. Indigenous Ways of Knowing and the impact on health and wellness is explored. Students investigate strategies to find, critique, use and disseminate health care-related research. Through discussion and analysis of real-world scenarios, students strengthen knowledge and skills to provide ethical, evidence-informed, and culturally safe person and family-centered care

Prerequisite(s): NSG6111

Corerequisite(s): none

NSG6212 Nursing Health Assessment

Practical nurses perform comprehensive and focused health assessments for patients across the lifespan. Students apply a systematic and person-centred approach to health assessment. Emphasis is placed on history-taking, physical examination, and the interpretation of findings to identify normal and abnormal health conditions. Students examine techniques for assessing body systems. Through case studies and discussions, students develop health assessment knowledge and skills prior to application in the clinical setting.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6151 and NSG6100 and NSG6110 and NSG6120

Corerequisite(s): none

NSG6213 Pharmacology 1

A foundational understanding of pharmacology supports healthcare professionals in the safe and effective use of medications in clinical practice. Students explore the principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics as well as drug classifications, mechanisms of action, therapeutic uses, side effects, interactions, and contraindications. Students apply mathematical skills when performing safe drug calculations for drug dosages. Through discussions, case studies and other interactive activities, students examine the roles and responsibilities of the practical nurse in the administration and evaluation of medications for clients with various health challenges.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6151

Corerequisite(s): none

NSG6220 Practical Nursing Lab 2

Practical nurses use a variety of critical thinking and psychomotor skills in the care of clients with chronic and acute care needs. Students systematically collect and analyze information, to practice and implement fundamental nursing interventions based on evidence-informed practice. Students develop skills to provide competent, safe, and ethical nursing care of persons living with a variety of health challenges. Through hands on practice, students apply knowledge and skills in a simulated environment prior to application in the clinical setting.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6100 and NSG6110 and NSG6120
Corerequisite(s): NSG6200 and NSG6210

NSG6300 Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 3

Caring for persons living with health challenges requires knowledge, skills and critical thinking ability. Students integrate knowledge and skills to care for acutely ill patients, with a primary focus on the person requiring acute medical/surgical healthcare. In an off-campus health care facility, students provide safe and ethical assessments, interventions, evaluations and documentation under the guidance of a clinical instructor.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6251 and NSG6200 and NSG6210 and NSG6213 and NSG6220
Corerequisite(s): NSG6310 and NSG6320

NSG6310 Practical Nursing Theory 3

Practical nurses must be able to integrate and apply a variety of knowledge and skills to provide high-quality nursing care for patients experiencing acute or complex health conditions. Students examine evidence-informed practices to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate interventions for individuals with changing health statuses. Through case studies and simulated scenarios, students develop knowledge and skills in clinical reasoning, monitoring techniques, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6251 and NSG6200 and NSG6210 and NSG6213 and NSG6220
Corerequisite(s): NSG6300 and NSG6320

NSG6311 Mental Health

Practical nurses provide care for individuals experiencing mental health challenges across the lifespan. Students examine evidence-informed practices related to mental health assessment, care and support. Students explore various mental health conditions, therapeutic communication techniques, and evidence-based interventions. Emphasis is placed on fostering a person-centered approach that respects patient autonomy and dignity, along with skills in de-escalation, crisis intervention, and suicide prevention. Ethical, cultural, and legal considerations in mental health care are addressed, preparing students to deliver empathetic, professional care.

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

NSG6312 Palliative & End of Life Care

The principles and practices of palliative care nursing include an emphasis on compassionate, holistic care for individuals facing life-limiting illnesses. Students explore strategies for managing physical symptoms, addressing psychological and spiritual needs, and supporting families through end-of-life experiences. Key topics include pain and symptom management, communication skills for difficult conversations, cultural sensitivity, MAID and ethical issues in palliative care. Through case studies and discussion, students examine person-centered approaches that respects patient dignity, autonomy, and quality of life, preparing students to provide empathetic, supportive care in a variety of healthcare settings.

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

NSG6313 Pharmacology 2

Nurses play a critical role in medication management in various settings within the health-care

system. Students examine differing pharmacotherapeutic agents used in the prevention, maintenance and/or treatment of illness. Students develop critical thinking and inquiry skills around the safe administration of medication through examination of various classifications of drugs and their action, in alignment with the roles and responsibilities of Practical Nurses in Ontario.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6251 and NSG6213

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG6320 Practical Nursing Lab 3

Practical nurses require strong critical thinking and psychomotor skills for the care of patients with complex acute and chronic health care needs. Students systematically analyze information, and practice and implement fundamental nursing interventions based on evidence-informed practice to provide nursing care for persons living with health challenges, including comorbidities and their impact on each other. Through the use of simulation and hands on learning, students strengthen and practice clinical skills and nursing judgment in a simulated learning environment prior to application in the clinical setting.

Prerequisite(s): BIO6251 and NSG6200 and NSG6210 and NSG6213 and NSG6220

Corerequisite(s):NSG6300 and NSG6310

NSG6400 Practical Nursing Clinical Placement 4

Practical nurses must be able to provide safe, competent, and ethical care for a variety of patients with a range of healthcare needs. Students integrate nursing judgement, knowledge and skills to care for childbearing families, pediatric patients or acutely and chronically ill patients in the community setting. Students provide evidence-informed caring assessments, interventions, evaluations and documentation under the guidance of a clinical instructor or preceptor.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6300 and NSG6310 and NSG6320

Corerequisite(s):NSG6410 and NSG6412 and NSG6413 and NSG6420

NSG6401 Integrated Clinical Practice

Persons living with acute and chronic illness rely on nurses to promote healthy living. Novice nursing students focus on a clinical area of interest, consolidate prior learning, and develop their knowledge base and nursing practice expertise. Students 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 practical nursing preceptor the student provides care, develops goals, and reflects on practice in order to be able to develop independence with various clinical experiences.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6400 and NSG6410 and NSG6412 and NSG6413 and NSG6420

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG6410 PN Community Care

Nursing is a dynamic process that involves caring for clients with varying levels of complexity across the lifespan and in diverse community nursing environments. Using the nursing process, students examine strategies for engagement with clients and families to assess, determine nursing diagnoses, plan, intervene, and evaluate care. Through case studies and discussion, students prepare for clinical practice in community care settings.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6300 and NSG6310 and NSG6320

Corerequisite(s):NSG6400 and NSG6412 and NSG6413 and NSG6420

NSG6411 Preparation for Professional Practice

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. Through practice with authentic licensing-style exams, students reflect on and refine

strategies to strengthen knowledge and test-taking skills.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6300 and NSG6310 and NSG6320

Corerequisite(s):none

NSG6412 PN Pediatric Care

There are specialized principles and practices that apply to nursing care for infants, children, and adolescents. Students explore the knowledge and skills required to address the unique physiological, developmental, and psychosocial needs of pediatric patients and their families. Through analysis and discussion of clinical scenarios, students examine family-centered care, growth and development milestones, health promotion, and disease prevention, as well as the management of acute and chronic health conditions in children.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6200 and NSG6210 and NSG6220

Corerequisite(s):NSG6400 and NSG6410 and NSG6413 and NSG6420

NSG6413 PN Perinatal and Newborn Care

Nurses provide care and anticipatory guidance to childbearing families. Nursing concepts and theories that promote healthy adaptation of prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum patients as well healthy growth and development of childbearing families are explored. Through discussions, case studies and other interactive activities, students examine collaborative professional and ethical person-centered care of childbearing families respecting their values, beliefs, and cultural practices.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6200 and NSG6210 and NSG6220

Corerequisite(s):NSG6400 and NSG6410 and NSG6412 and NSG6420

NSG6420 Practical Nursing Lab 4

Practical nurses provide competent, safe, and ethical care for patients of various ages and stages, with acute and chronic health care needs in a variety of professional settings. Students systematically analyze information, and practice and implement fundamental nursing interventions based on evidence-informed practice to provide nursing care for persons living with health challenges, in specialized settings such as maternity, pediatric and community nursing. Through the use of simulation and hands on learning, students consolidate clinical skills and nursing judgement in a simulated learning environment prior to application in the clinical setting.

Prerequisite(s): NSG6300 and NSG6310 and NSG6320

Corerequisite(s):NSG6400 and NSG6410 and NSG6412 and NSG6413