

PRACTICAL NURSE ACCESS PROGRAM

Curriculum Guide

(Revised November 2007; April 2008)

PURPOSE

Discovery Community College Practical Nurse Access Program (PNAP) is designed to prepare graduates to meet or exceed the Standards of Practice and Competencies for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in British Columbia and the Code of Ethics, as set out by the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia (CLPNBC).

The philosophy of this program is based on a humanistic, experiential approach to education. Learners are viewed as responsible, self-determined individuals having the capacity to negotiate their own learning needs with the guidance and support of expert facilitators. This way of being in the learning experience is intended to emulate a way of being in the practice experience with clients, families and groups.

PROGRAM GOALS

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will possess the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and “sound” clinical judgments that will enable them to:

1. Practice in a professional, safe, ethical manner, following the Standards of Practice and Competencies and the Code of Ethics in a variety of clinical settings; e.g. long-term care, extended care, home care, community care, acute care medical and surgical areas.
2. Provide competent, ethical care within scope of practice, to individuals, families and groups from diverse backgrounds and circumstances, who have health and healing needs; e.g. older adults, persons with disabilities, mothers and their newborn, etc.
3. Promote and maintain the health and healing needs of individuals, families and groups.
4. Work effectively, both independently and in partnership, with clients/significant others, nurses and various other members of the health care team.
5. Practice nursing based on critical thought, using knowledge derived from nursing science and various other sciences and humanities; e.g. biological, behavioral, and physical.

PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

In order to meet program goals, graduates will:

1. Practice Nursing in a Professional Manner
 - 1.1 Function within the legal boundaries of nursing
 - 1.2 Function within the ethical boundaries of nursing
 - 1.3 Function within the agency and department boundaries of nursing
 - 1.4 Espouse professional associations
 - 1.5 Perform nursing in a responsible and accountable manner
 - 1.6 Demonstrate client advocacy

- 1.7 Keep current in nursing knowledge and skills
- 1.8 Demonstrate knowledge of clients', colleagues and self-rights within the context of nursing practice.
- 1.9 Maintain own physical and psychosocial well-being

2. Apply Knowledge of Health and Healing in the Context of Client Care
 - 2.1 Demonstrate nursing science and art required to assess, plan, implement and evaluate nursing care for clients across the lifespan
 - 2.2 Provide health teaching to clients/families
 - 2.3 Use evidence-based knowledge to provide safe care
 - 2.4 Recognize changes in client status and respond appropriately
 - 2.5 Establish and promote therapeutic nurse-client relationships
 - 2.6 Support clients and families in making informed decisions regarding health and healing
 - 2.7 Assist clients to meet holistic needs
 - 2.8 Demonstrate respect for clients' and families' unique needs, preferences and diversity
 - 2.9 Promote client self-care, respecting dignity and independence

3. Facilitate intrapersonal, interpersonal and group relationships to serve the public.
 - 3.1 Assume responsibility for own practice
 - 3.2 Collaborate as an effective member of the nursing and health care team
 - 3.3 Communicate appropriately, in verbal, non-verbal and written form, with clients, families, colleagues and members of the health care team.
 - 3.4 Accept, collaborate in and delegate client care activities appropriately

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The above competencies will be accomplished as students' progress through twelve courses presented at three levels, two clinical practice experiences, and one preceptorship.

The level one courses focus on health promotion and healing for individuals from infancy to older adulthood. Effective communication skills, orientation to the profession of nursing, and the process of health and healing within the context of the client, family, significant others, and groups in the community are examined. The clinical experience is in a long-term care facility.

Level two focuses on individuals of all ages who experience major disruptions to health and healing and who require support in an acute care setting. The clinical experience is in an acute care facility.

Level three includes preparation for and the carrying out of the preceptorship experience. Students will review pharmacology and focus on professional growth through preparation for the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE), and preparation of résumés and a portfolio.

As students progress through the program they will begin to take full responsibility for their knowledge and application of that knowledge, for the nursing practice they provide to the public, for identifying and suggesting remedies for either making further progress in their own development or overcoming deficits, and for all professional and ethical aspects of their behaviour in all areas of the program. There is a strong emphasis on graduated learning, as well as on the inclusion of crucial content necessary for the development of practice-ready graduates.

The program is organized into twelve courses, two clinical experiences, and one preceptorship:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- Professional Growth I, II, and III
- Human Relations I
- Pharmacology I
- Nursing Sciences I and II
- Health I and II
- Healing I and II
- Clinical Experiences – long term care, acute care
- Preceptorship

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet all of these entry requirements:

- ✓ Submission of completed application forms
- ✓ A satisfactory entrance interview with a College official
- ✓ British Columbia Grade 12 graduation with a minimum “C” standing in Biology 12 and English 12. An Adult Graduation Diploma with a minimum “C” standing in Biology 12 and English 12 will be accepted as equivalent. (Technical and Professional Communications 12, and English Literature 12, are both accepted as equivalent to English 12.)
- ✓ Grade 10 math
- ✓ RCA or RHCA Certificate
- ✓ Minimum of 1,000 hours of R/HCA practice (must be verified by employers)
- ✓ CPR (level C) certificate
- ✓ Health clearance note from doctor
- ✓ Current immunization record including hepatitis B vaccine
- ✓ Signed consent for a criminal records check under the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP)
- ✓ Provide a current résumé
- ✓ Provide names of two references – one work and one character reference

Criminal Record Checks

Discovery Community College will submit each applicant’s criminal record check (CRC) on-line to the Criminal Record Review Program (CRRP). The status of the CRC does not automatically prevent an applicant from attending this program. However, any CRC that reveals “relevant” offences may make it difficult or impossible to place the student in a

practicum, clinical, or preceptorship. Students who cannot be placed in a practicum, clinical, or preceptorship cannot graduate from this program and will be withdrawn.

Some practicum or clinical 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 practicum or clinical cannot graduate from this program and will be withdrawn.

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

RECOMMENDED STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Students must be willing to conduct themselves in a professional, ethical, and business-like manner at all times. As part of your preparation for professional practical nursing, instructors and staff will apply the principals of the profession to their expectations of your conduct. This will be a supportive process.

Students will be required to adhere to a clinical dress policy designed to portray the same professional image that is required in any health care facility.

Students should be willing to engage in class discussion and debate, enjoy reading, research, and study, and be able to write and record their thoughts and information gathered.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND ACTIVITIES

This is a 39-week (1,170 hours) program that will consist of 23 weeks of theory and laboratory study, 10 weeks of clinical practice, and 6 weeks of preceptorship practice. This program will be offered Monday to Friday, in the morning (9:00 to 12:00) and afternoon (1:00 to 4:00). You will be in class 30 hours each week (statutory holidays and emergencies excepted). Class times are subject to change. Hours while on clinical placement and in your preceptorship will vary. Homework will be assigned.

Clinical placements will be at a variety of sites in the Northern and Central areas of the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Students must be able to attend clinical and preceptorship placements which may be scheduled on days, evenings, and weekends. Students will be required to supply their own transportation.

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

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

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. The instructor will endeavour to provide notice of any changes to students as soon as possible.

RESOURCES

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

The College maintains a library on campus which all students will have access to. Students will also be provided with library cards for the medical library at Campbell River Hospital or West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni.

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

You will be learning in a well-equipped classroom and nursing skills and arts laboratory. Media equipment includes a TV, VCR, and OHP (overhead projector). The laboratory area will be equipped with four beds, bed tables, chairs, a nursing station, drug trolley, and other hospital and nursing equipment.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Student progress and success will be assessed regularly throughout the program. This will be accomplished using a variety of evaluation tools.

The passing grade for all programs is 70%. A minimum of 70% is required on each course. In each of the exams and assignments of the pharmacology course a minimum of 90% is required. Students will be required to pass all assignments, exams, and clinical practice experiences at each level of the program before moving on to the next level. A minimum attendance of 80% is required to receive a certificate of successful achievement.

Final transcripts will record all marks for courses within the program as well as your attendance record. A separate certificate will be awarded to each student attaining 100% attendance. Letter grades for each course will be available to students three working days after each course completion and three working days after the program end date.

The Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) is the national examination taken by all candidates in Canada (except Quebec). The purpose of the examination is to protect the public by ensuring that entry-level practical nurses have the competencies to practice safely and effectively. Examinations are the final step to

registration and all other requirements (theoretical and clinical) must be met prior to writing.

The CPNRE is held in January, May, and September of each year. The administration schedule for the CPNRE is available on the CLPNBC website at www.clpnbc.org. There is an examination fee which includes interim registration. Please refer to the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC for more complete information.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The instructor will assign a list of suggested readings as part of each course throughout the program. These should be available from the library resources mentioned above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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