

Licensed Practical Nurse

Program Outline

The Practical Nurse (PN) program at Oulton College prepares students to become compassionate, competent, and regulated healthcare professionals who deliver safe and ethical care across the lifespan. This diploma program emphasizes hands-on clinical practice, critical thinking, and patient-centered care rooted in practical nursing principles and current healthcare needs.

The curriculum is informed by national standards and provincial requirements, and includes core areas such as anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, health assessment, mental health, and medical-surgical nursing. Students also participate in supervised clinical placements to gain real-world experience in diverse healthcare settings.

The PN program is delivered full-time and in-person over two academic years, consisting of five semesters and a preceptorship. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) and apply for licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in New Brunswick and other participating provinces.

The program is fully approved by the Association of New Brunswick Licensed Practical Nurses (ANBLPN) and is designed to meet the competencies required for LPN practice in Canada.

Admissions Requirements

- Grade 12 Diploma, Adult Diploma or GED.
- Grade 11 or 12 Biology* with a minimum average of 65%.
- Grade 11 or 12 Math* with a minimum average of 65%.
- Grade 11 or 12 English* with a minimum average of 65%.
- Meeting with an Admissions Advisor.
- Successful completion of the health science application process.

**Courses marked with an asterisk (*) must be completed at the academic level. International students whose first language is not English must submit proof of English language proficiency, unless they have completed a minimum of three years of study at a school where English is the language of instruction. Please see the international application process [here](#).*

Career Opportunities

Our Practical Nurse Program is designed to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the healthcare industry. Explore the diverse and rewarding career paths available to graduates of our Practical Nurse Program. Here are just a few opportunities you can pursue:

- Hospitals (OR, ER, Maternity, Pediatrics, Neurology, Psychiatry)
- Long Term Care
- Special Care Homes
- Community Health Clinics
- Health-focused Corporations
- Canadian Blood Services

You Will Learn

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Phlebotomy
- Health Assessment
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- Medical Terminology
- Simple & Complex Skills
- Communication Strategies
- Research Methods ... and much more.

Course Descriptions

Basic Nursing Skills (PN 101)

Through an interactive lab environment, students will practice through simulation and with fellow students to gain the skills and techniques required in providing optimum care in a geriatric environment. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of nursing skills in an interactive, controlled environment while performing important procedures. All laboratory skills must be passed in order to participate in the geriatric clinical experience.

Clinical Geriatric (PN 102)

The student will be assigned to a long-term or acute care clinical setting, under the supervision and mentorship of a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse. During this two-week clinical experience, they will utilize skills that have been attained in the first term of the program. Students will participate in a team approach to nursing care, while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism and personal and client safety.

Pre-Clinical Theory (PN 103)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will gain knowledge of theory related to the Canadian Health Care System and the foundation of nursing. Students will understand and practice the principles behind the skills that will be delivered at the bedside. Also, students will be able to use and understand the terminology used in nursing.

Anatomy and Physiology (PN 104)

This theory course discusses normal anatomy and physiology of the human body according to its levels of organization, from tissues to organs and major systems, with an overview of microbiology. Students will be introduced to medical terminology with a focus on pronunciation, spelling and definitions. This knowledge will assist Practical Nursing students in developing evidence-informed strategies for the initial and on-going care of clients.

Communications and Interpersonal Skills (PN 105)

The student will gain the basic skills and techniques necessary for appropriate communication with staff, clients, family members and other health care providers. The course focus will be from nursing theories that pertain to communication and basic human needs. This course will be delivered through interactive lectures, group activities, role-play and guest speakers.

Practice Standards in Health Care (PN 106)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will actively engage in discussions regarding the practice of all types of care, as it relates to nursing. Students will examine the roots of health care in Canada, the operations of primary health care and current challenges to the health care system.

Practice standards encompass many topics including theoretical foundations, informatics, nursing care delivery models, legal responsibilities and ethics. Professional nursing organizations, practice acts and Code of Ethics are discussed. At the completion of this course, students will be able to describe and understand all aspects of practice standards for practical nurses in Canada and the impact of these standards on client care.

Care of the Elderly (PN 107)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will gain knowledge of the physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cognitive changes that are part of the normal aging process. Students will learn the unique needs of the aging population and how to best care and communicate with them.

Intermediate Nursing Skills Laboratory (PN 201)

Through an interactive lab environment, students will practice through simulation and with fellow students to gain the skills and techniques required in providing optimum care in a basic acute care environment. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of nursing skills in an interactive, controlled environment while performing important procedures and maintaining sterility. All laboratory skills must be passed in order to participate in the basic acute care clinical experience.

Basic Acute Care Clinical (PN 202)

The student will be assigned to a long-term or acute care clinical setting, under the supervision and mentorship of a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse. During this two-week clinical experience, they will utilize skills that have been attained in the first two terms of the program. Students will participate in a team approach to nursing care, while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism and personal and client safety. This experience may aid the student in determining which area of nursing they would like to be employed upon completion of the practical nurse program.

Advanced Pre-Clinical Theory (PN 203)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will build upon the knowledge and practical skills from the first term of the program. Principles of asepsis, elimination, artificial airways and skin integrity are the main topics covered. Students will understand the principles behind the skills that will be delivered at the bedside and be able to use and understand nursing terminology.

Pathophysiology (PN 204)

Applying knowledge gained from anatomy and physiology and other program courses to date, students will identify the etiology, signs and symptoms, diagnostic tests, nursing interventions and treatments for clients with health alterations. Common diseases and conditions are studied to illustrate disease processes.

Nursing Process of Care (PN 205)

The student will gain the skills and techniques necessary to communicate through proper documentation, reporting and charting. The focus will be on the importance of providing a clear portrait of the client and family through documentation, while meeting legal requirements. Students will learn the five steps in the nursing process and discover that it is a problem-solving approach to identifying, diagnosing, and treating the health issues of the client.

This course will promote critical thinking and enable students to formulate a nursing diagnosis, implement interventions, and focus on client goals. Students will also learn how to properly interview a client and incorporate their findings into a care plan.

Introduction to Pharmacology (PN 206)

The Introduction to Pharmacology course will examine pharmacology as it pertains to the role of the Licensed Practical Nurse. The course will explore many topics including measures in place to ensure public safety, interpreting physician's orders, the use of drug terminology for describing how and why medications are taken, drug classifications and documentation.

Students will be evaluated by testing, assignments, and/or by individual or group projects.

Nutrition and Healthy Living (PN 207)

Through interactive lessons, students will recognize and apply the principles of nutrition when assisting clients with their nutritional needs. Students will study the relationship of nutritional status with health and various diseases states. Factors that influence nutritional status are examined along with nutritional management of various diseases.

Adult Physical Assessment (PN 208)

Through an interactive class, students will gain the knowledge of skills and techniques used in obtaining a full patient health history. Head to toe physical assessment involving all body systems is discussed along with possible abnormalities and documentation of such findings. This course will be delivered through lectures, simulation, self-assessment, role playing, videos and practical demonstrations.

Phlebotomy Laboratory (PN 301)

The student will safely demonstrate blood collection techniques using various types of blood collection equipment. The student will apply the PN 303 Phlebotomy course theory to proper selection of collection site, equipment used, order of draw and specimen labeling. 10 successful venipunctures must be obtained.

Intermediate Acute Care Clinical (PN 302)

The student will be assigned to a long-term or acute care clinical setting, under the supervision and mentorship of a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse. During this two-week clinical experience, they will utilize skills that have been attained in the first three terms of the program, as well as rotation in phlebotomy.

Students will participate in a team approach to nursing care, while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism and personal and client safety.

Phlebotomy (PN 303)

The course will provide the practical nursing student with a theoretical and working knowledge of specimen collection techniques. The topics covered in this course include anatomy of the human blood circulation system, safety in phlebotomy, phlebotomy equipment, phlebotomy procedures, specimen considerations and special procedures.

Introduction to Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (PN 304)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will actively engage in discussions regarding the practice of all types of care, as it relates to nursing in mental health. This theory course covers aspects of mental health and psychiatric mental health nursing as pertains to the role of the Licensed Practical Nurse. Theoretical models will be referenced as important factors in the development of therapeutic client relationships.

Assessment processes and nursing interventions will be compared for common clinical behaviors. At the completion of this course, students will be able to understand all aspects of psychiatric mental health in Canada, and how it affects client care.

Community Nursing & Leadership (PN 305)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will learn of the increasing importance of leadership in the health care field. Students will learn how to manage difficult situations, have a keen awareness of personal and client values and develop the ability to make sound decisions.

The development of health policy and the public health model in nursing are discussed and related to the role of public health and community nursing in Canada. Students complete 12 hours of community placement during this course. PN 405 follows this course as a continuation of Community Nursing & Leadership.

Palliative (PN 306)

Students will explore the concepts of palliation within the Licensed Practical Nurses' scope of practice, examining topics such as client and family needs, spirituality, culture, loss, grief and care giver support.

Introduction to Perinatal Care (PN 307)

This course is designed to introduce the student to the specialty of perinatal nursing, which focuses on promoting wellness in the care of women during their reproductive years. The course content emphasizes the "family-centered approach" which incorporates the importance of collaboration with both the woman and her family in order to provide optimal nursing care.

The course will address the changing needs of Canadian women during their childbearing years, focusing on cultural diversity and the Canadian health care system. A variety of women's health issues will be discussed as well as the assessment and planning for pregnancy. Students will be provided with individual and group learning activities.

Adult Physical Assessment II (PN 308)

Through an interactive class, students will gain skills and techniques required in obtaining a full patient health history, performing head to toe physical assessments and investigating possible abnormalities that may be discovered. Focus will also be given to proper documentation of such

findings. This course will be delivered through lectures, simulation, self-assessments, role-playing, videos and practical demonstrations.

Advanced Laboratory Skills (PN 401)

The student will gain the knowledge and practical skills to perform advanced nursing skills in addition to the skills previously attained in prior semesters. The advanced nursing skills will better equip students to work in the health care field and to safely administer care.

This course will allow the student to practice skills in a laboratory setting on fellow classmates and simulation equipment. Skills will be practiced in the clinical experience.

Advanced Acute Care Clinical I (PN 402)

The student will be assigned to a long-term or acute care clinical setting, under the supervision and mentorship of a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse. During this three-week clinical experience, they will utilize skills that have been attained in the first year and first term of the second year of the program.

Students will participate in a team approach to nursing care, while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism and personal and client safety.

Clinical Feedback (PN 403)

This course provides a regular forum for transfer of pertinent information among students and staff members regarding clinical practice. Students are encouraged to bring current issues that have an impact on health care provision or clinical practice for class discussion.

Facilitation related to conflict resolution, inter-professional collaboration, national examination, noncompliant patients, ethical dilemmas and other subject matters of interest to students will be provided. Time will also be dedicated to assisting students in devising useful strategies for the Licensed Practical Nurse examination.

Mental Health (PN 404)

Through an interactive classroom setting, students will actively engage in discussions regarding the practice of all types of care, as it relates to mental health nursing. Mental health disorders, vulnerable populations, intervention strategies and various methods of therapeutic communication are studied.

Psychopharmacology, mental health assessment and the fostering of therapeutic environments in the hospital and community are also discussed. At the completion of this course, students will understand aspects of mental health in Canada, and their effect on client care in the practical nursing scope of practice.

Community Nursing & Leadership (PN 405)

In this course, students will gain experience educating, caring and providing support to a variety of community agencies that may include an extra mural hospital, childcare centre and other community agencies based on the student's interest. Students will apply their knowledge of the public health model of nursing, leadership, values and professionalism in the community health settings.

Students will perform health assessments, health education and advocate for their profession as part of the community experiences. This course is the follow-up to the PN 305-Community Nursing and Leadership theory course.

Medication Administration (PN 406)

In this interactive course, students will study basic pharmacological principles as they relate to the role of the practical nurse in the and the safe administration of medications and the care of patients with central lines.

Safe handling and disposal of medications, accurate processing of medication orders, medication classifications, characteristics, common outcomes, nursing interventions, and side effects. Administration of medications via percutaneous routes, as well as education of the client and family are covered.

Maternal Child (PN 407)

This theory course discusses the care of women during their childbearing years, the healthcare of children and pediatric development. Students are introduced to maternal and postpartum assessments as well as the care of newborns and their families.

The course content emphasizes the "family-centered approach" which incorporates the importance of collaboration with the woman, child and their family in order to provide optimal nursing care. The PN student will be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills pertinent to the care of the woman and child that reflects the role of the Practical Nurse.

Medical Surgical Nursing (PN 408)

This course is designed to enhance the critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills of practical nursing students within the context of medical-surgical care. Focusing on advanced health and illness concepts, the course integrates critical thinking frameworks with essential physiological and pathophysiological principles to prepare students for complex clinical scenarios.

Advanced Acute Care Laboratory (PN 501)

The student will gain the knowledge and practical skills to perform advanced nursing skills in addition to the skills previously attained in prior semesters. The advanced nursing skills will better equip students to work in the health care field and to safely administer care. This course will allow the student to practice skills in a laboratory setting on fellow classmates as well as on simulation equipment.

Advanced Acute Care Clinical II (PN 502)

The student will be assigned to a long-term or acute care clinical setting, under the supervision and mentorship of a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse. During this two-week clinical experience, they will utilize skills that have been attained so far in the program. Students will participate in a team approach to nursing care, while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism and personal and client safety.

Research (PN 503)

This course will examine research in health care as it pertains to the Licensed Practical Nurse. This interactive class will explore many topics including the basics of statistics, the use of research methods, analyzing data collection and evaluating published articles. Students will be required to complete assignments, critique research literature and prepare an evidence-based presentation for the class.

Medication Administration II (PN 506)

This interactive course will explore the advanced methodology of medication administration. The students will review medication administration modules from PN 406 and learn the following about various medications: classifications, characteristics, nursing interventions, side effects, routes of administration as well as client and family teaching. Students will combine theory and practical skills by applying their knowledge in both a lab and clinical setting.

Care of the Child (PN 507)

This theory course discusses the specialized care of children with chronic conditions or illnesses and the effect on pediatric development. The course content emphasizes the “family-centered approach” which incorporates the importance of collaboration with the ill or disabled child and their siblings, parents and caregivers in order to provide optimal nursing care.

The development of critical thinking skills pertinent to the care of the child reflects the role of the practical nurse. This class is interactive and includes movies, group discussions, individual assignments and tests.

Preceptorship (PN 600)

This five-week (180 hours) practicum experience will provide students with the opportunity to integrate themselves into a health care facility, working as a member of that “team”. They will perform tasks as designated by the nurse manager, providing professional care for clients while working within the practical nursing scope of practice, and utilizing skills they have learned during the practical nurse program.

Cost Breakdown

Please refer to your contract for the detailed cost/ tuition breakdown. Costs vary by year, so please ensure you are referring to the correct dates.