# PPNP – Practical Nursing Diploma

**Health and Human Services**

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2027
**Program Outline Review Date:** 2032-03-01

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**Program Area:** Health

**Description:**

This two-year diploma program is designed to help prepare graduates to give qualified professional care to individuals and families in a variety of settings. Graduates are eligible to apply to write REx-PN exams for licensure as Practical Nurses. In order to meet requirements for clinical practica, students may have to travel to regional areas in the East Kootenay.

Within this curriculum, caring is viewed as a core concept. Practical Nurses foster client empowerment in care planning and decision making, and are cognizant of their unique biological, psychosocial, spiritual, cultural and environmental complexity. Practical Nurses care for clients across the lifespan, providing safe, knowledgeable and integrated care through critical thinking and clinical judgment.

The Practical Nurse curriculum supports a deliberate, client-focused approach, and fosters the development of a conscious relationship with the client and the learning environment. Learning occurs through formal and informal study, mentorship, coaching, role modeling and experience. Lifelong learning is facilitated by a learner-owned approach that promotes cultural safety, cultural humility, caring, independence, critical inquiry and creativity. The curriculum embraces concept-based, case-based, skill-based and integrated learning experiences, and builds on the learners' prior learning and life experience. Collaborative learning through interdisciplinary understanding and effective team functioning are promoted as well.

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**Program Information:**

This Practical Nursing Program: B.C. Provincial Curriculum 2025 replaces the 2011 Practical Nursing Program Provincial Curriculum Guide, 2nd Edition, revised 2017. The 2025 curriculum revisions, like the 2017 curriculum revisions, were guided by the British Columbia College of

Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) Licensed Practical Nurses Entry-Level Competencies. The revisions were carried out by subject matter experts, guided by the steering committee, and approved by the Government of British Columbia, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

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**Credentials Granted:**

Practical Nursing Diploma

**Program Average:** A minimum program grade point average of 2.0/10 (C- average)

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**Delivery Methods:** On-Campus (Face-to-Face)

**Credits:** 74

**Instructional Activity and Hours:**

**Level 1:**

| Activity | Hours |
|---|---|
| Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction | 232 |
| Seminar/Tutorials | |
| Laboratory/Studio | 135 |
| Practicum/Field Experience | 90 |
| Co-op/Work Experience | |
| Other | |
| Total | 457 |

**Level 2:**

| Activity | Hours |
|---|---|
| Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction | 155 |
| Seminar/Tutorials | |
| Laboratory/Studio | 180 |
| Practicum/Field Experience | 120 |
| Co-op/Work Experience | |
| Other | |
| Total | 455 |

**Level 3:**

| Activity | Hours |
|---|---|
| Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction | 121 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Seminar/Tutorials | |
| Laboratory/Studio | 120 |
| Practicum/Field Experience | 65 |
| Co-op/Work Experience | |
| Other | |
| Total | 306 |

**Level 4:**

| Activity | Hours |
|---|---|
| Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction | 144 |
| Seminar/Tutorials | |
| Laboratory/Studio | 180 |
| Practicum/Field Experience | 200 |
| Co-op/Work Experience | |
| Other | 180 |
| Total | 704 |

**Admission Requirements:**

- Complete all of the following
  - Secondary school graduation or equivalent
  - Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in at least 1 of the following:
    - ENST 12 – English Studies 12
    - ENFP 12 – English First Peoples 12
    - ENGL090 – Provincial English: Literature-based (0)
  - Earned a minimum grade of C (60%) in at least 1 of the following:
    - FOM 11 – Foundations of Mathematics 11
    - PREC 11 – Pre-Calculus 11
    - MATH080 – Mathematics – Advanced Level (0)
    - MATH082 – Mathematics, Advanced Level (Developmental Mathematics) (0)
  - Earned a minimum grade of C (60%) in at least 1 of the following:
    - ATPH 12 – Anatomy and Physiology 12
    - BIOL090 – Biology-Provincial Level (Human Biology) (0)
  - Human Anatomy and Physiology for Practical Nurses with a minimum grade of 65% must be achieved before taking Variations in Health 1, Health Promotion 1, Pharmacology 1, Integrated Nursing Practice 1 and Consolidated Practice 1

**Non-Academic Admission Requirements:**

**English Language Proficiency Requirements**

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to achieve the following scores in one of the two tests below:

1. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with minimum scores of

- Speaking: 7.0
- Listening: 7.5
- Reading: 6.5
- Writing: 7.0
- Overall Band Score: 7.0

2. Canadian English Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN) with minimum scores of:

- Speaking: 8.0
- Listening: 10.0
- Reading: 8.0
- Writing: 7.0

It is the applicant’s responsibility to arrange for assessment through Student Services or an Education Advisor at the College.

**Additional Admission Requirements**

- Practical Nursing Requisite Skills and Abilities Declaration
- Criminal Record Check (CRC) through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure Agreement

**Practicum Requirements**

- CPR for Health Care Providers BLS or HCP or equivalent, to be kept current for the duration of the program. Acceptable CPR courses must include a face-to-face component and may be combined with a first aid course
- BCCDC Immunizations for BC Health Care Workers
- Annual influenza immunization
- COVID-19 vaccination
- Negative TB testing results, must be completed no earlier than 8 months before the beginning of the PN Program

**Program Completion Requirements:**

Year 1
38 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following
  Level 1
  - Completed the following:
    - PPNP101 – Anatomy and Physiology for Practical Nursing (3)
    - PPNP102 – Professional Practice 1 (2)
    - PPNP103 – Professional Communication 1 (2)
    - PPNP104 – Variations in Health 1 (3)

- PPNP105 – Health Promotion 1 (2)
- PPNP106 – Pharmacology 1 (2)
- PPNP107 – Integrated Nursing Practice 1 (4)
- PPNP108 – Consolidated Practice Experience 1 (2)

- Note: Students must pass PPNP 101 to continue in Level 1 of the program.
  Level 2
- Completed the following:
  - PPNP111 – Professional Practice 2 (1)
  - PPNP112 – Professional Communication 2 (2)
  - PPNP113 – Variations in Health 2 (3)
  - PPNP114 – Health Promotion 2 (2)
  - PPNP115 – Pharmacology 2 (2)
  - PPNP116 – Integrated Nursing Practice 2 (5)
  - PPNP117 – Consolidated Practice Experience 2 (3)

Year 2
36 Total Credits

- Complete all of the following
  Level 3
  - Completed the following:
    - PPNP201 – Professional Practice 3 (1)
    - PPNP202 – Professional Communication 3 (1)
    - PPNP203 – Variations in Health 3 (3)
    - PPNP204 – Health Promotion 3 (3)
    - PPNP205 – Integrated Nursing Practice 3 (4)
    - PPNP206 – Consolidated Practice Experience 3 (2)

  Level 4
  - Completed the following:
    - PPNP211 – Professional Practice 4 (1)
    - PPNP212 – Professional Communication 4 (1)
    - PPNP213 – Variations in Health 4 (3)
    - PPNP214 – Health Promotion 4 (2)
    - PPNP215 – Integrated Nursing Practice 4 (5)
    - PPNP216 – Consolidated Practice Experience 4 (4)
  - Completed the following:
    - PPNP217 – Transition to Preceptorship (2)
    - PPNP218 – Preceptorship (4)

Grand Total Credits: 74

**Program Completion Requirements Notes:**

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

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**Program Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the Practical Nursing Program, graduates will:

- apply the current British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) LPN Entry-Level Competencies to provide safe, competent, culturally safe, and ethical care;
- practice within current and relevant legislation and BCCNM LPN Ethics Standards and Practice Standards, as set out by the Nurses and Midwives Regulation (effective April 1, 2026) and the Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation (effective April 1, 2026);
- value and engage in continuous learning to maintain and enhance competence;
- collaborate with other members of the health care team to meet the collective needs of their clients;
- participate in interprofessional problem solving and decision making;
- advocate for and facilitate change that reflects evidence?informed practice;
- make practice decisions that are client specific and consider client acuity, complexity, variability, and available resources;
- demonstrate autonomous practice when using critical thinking, clinical judgment, and knowledge of assessment to plan, implement, and evaluate the agreed-upon plan of care;
- develop collaborative relationships with clients by connecting, sharing, and exploring with them in a caring environment;
- provide culturally safe, trauma-informed, and person?centred care across the lifespan that recognizes, reflects, and respects diversity, equity, inclusion, and the uniqueness of each individual;
- identify, address, prevent, and eliminate Indigenous-specific racism and facilitate safe health care experiences where Indigenous clients’ physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural needs are recognized and met;
- provide appropriate leadership, direction, delegation, assignment, and supervision of unregulated care providers; and
- identify one’s own values, biases, and assumptions, and how these influence therapeutic relationships with clients and interactions with other members of the health care team.

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**Prior Learning and Recognition:** No

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**Program Transfer Credit:**

For information about block transfer agreements between programs in British Columbia, Alberta, and elsewhere, please visit http://www.cotr.bc.ca/transfer.

To minimize transfer issues, check with an academic advisor at the institution that will receive the transfer credits.

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**Academic Policies:**

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

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**Program Changes:**

Information contained in this program outline is correct at the time of publication. Courses and course content may be revised from time to time based on changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The timetable may also be revised.

**Course Descriptions:** Refer to Course Outlines – https://outlines.cotr.bc.ca/course/