

## **Practical Nurse Re-entry Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why should I consider the Practical Nurse Re-entry program? What sets this program apart from other programs?**

As a student in the Practical Nurse Re-entry program, you'll review theory that you learned previously and update your knowledge in order to be able to work within the full scope of practice of a licensed practical nurse.

The curriculum is designed to ensure that you meet the competencies of the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (SALPN) competency profile.

This program also stands out because it is offered by distance which allows you to maintain job and family responsibilities.

### **Is this program approved?**

The Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (SALPN) is responsible for the approval of the Practical Nurse Re-entry program. The approval criterion ensures that graduates meet the standards and have achieved the minimum competencies for practice as set forth by SALPN.

### **When can I start courses in the program?**

You can start any time of the year from September 1 to May 31 as the program has ongoing enrolment.

### **How is the program offered?**

The program is offered by distance learning. The learning method is home study with print-based learning materials. You can submit your assignments by email, regular mail or fax.

### **How many courses are there in the program?**

There are nine theory courses, two labs and three clinical practice components.

You will have 18 weeks to complete each theory course. Some courses have prerequisites.

### **I have not been in school for awhile. Do you have any suggestions for enhancing my study skills?**

There are wonderful study skills tools on the internet. One that former students recommend is Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review (SQ3R). Type this into a search engine to find resources using this strategy. SIAS Libraries also has a wealth of resources that they direct you to help you study, write exams and write papers.

## **How will I communicate with faculty?**

Program faculty are available to support you via the telephone and email.

There is no faculty support in July and August as these months are not counted when determining your end date.

## **I have always attended formal classroom education. Distance learning seems like it would be a lonely experience. Is there any way I could have contact with my classmates?**

While distance learning can be a lonely experience, all students are given the opportunity to complete a Freedom of Information consent form. If you agree to allow our faculty to release your contact information to other students, then you can be linked up with your classmates. Your information is only given to other classmates and is only released with your consent.

## **How will I progress through the program?**

Each of the theory courses is divided into learning outcomes that cover specific material. Each learning outcome is divided into learning steps that will guide you in your learning. There are review exercises included at the end of each learning outcome that allow you to assess your learning. Most theory courses have a midterm and final exam. Some courses have assignments to evaluate your knowledge. Guidelines for completing assignments and the grading criteria are included in the course manuals.

There are two lab experiences that are only offered in Regina. One two-day lab covers health assessment and the other four-day lab covers nursing skills (such as sterile dressing techniques, catheterization, administration of medications and IV therapy). Your nursing skills will be evaluated in the lab. You must demonstrate mastery of the required psychomotor skills and health assessment techniques prior to entering the clinical area.

There are three clinical practice experiences in the areas of long term care, acute care and community care. Your 10-day long term care experience will be under the supervision of an instructor in Regina. Your other two experiences will be completed in your home community. The instructor for the long term care clinical experience will evaluate that area. The preceptor and faculty in the acute care and community care experiences will evaluate those areas. All are graded as pass / fail. You must successfully complete all the theory courses prior to entering the clinical area.

## **Where are the labs held?**

The labs are held in Regina at Wascana Campus. They are held at various times throughout the year according to student need. There is a minimum number of students required in order to offer the labs.

## **Where will my clinical practice education take place?**

Your first experience will be in long-term care in Regina under the supervision of a faculty. Following this experience, there are two more clinical practice experiences, one in acute care and one in community care. These two clinical experiences are done in your home community. You will be placed with a preceptor who will help you with your learning.

**When is clinical practice education offered?**

Clinical practice education is set up after students successfully complete the required theory courses. There has to be a minimum number of students in order to offer the long-term care clinical.

**Where do I write my exams?**

An approved test site will be assigned to you when you are registered in program courses.

Generally, students write their exams online in the test centers located at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina or SIAST Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon.

When you write your exams online, test center staff will orientate you to the test-writing software. You must schedule an extra 15 minutes before your first exam for your orientation. The exams are multiple choice and require the writer to know how to use a mouse and read onscreen instructions.

**Can I get credit for prior learning?**

Please go to [Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#).

**Where can I buy my books and other materials?**

Information on purchasing textbooks and course manuals will be provided when you register. Material is available for purchase online, by phone, or in person.

**What completion document credential do I receive after completing the program?**

Upon graduation, you will receive an applied certificate in Practical Nurse Re-entry.