

**Practical Nursing Program
Frequently Asked Questions
May 17, 2010**

1. Why is this change being made?

We receive applications for the program well in excess of capacity, and we are forced to turn down many applicants. By setting additional selection criteria, we enable prospective students to more proactively strive for admission. If an applicant isn't admitted one year, for instance, he or she can work toward improving his or her application for the next intake.

2. What does the "high demand" designation mean?

Programs considered high demand are those that receive applications 2.5 times or more over capacity at each SIAS campus location where it is offered for at least two consecutive years.

3. What are the admission requirements and selection criteria?

Admission requirements and selection criteria are as follows:

Admission Requirements:

- *Grade 12 with a minimum overall average of 65% in:*
 - *English Language Arts A30*
 - *English Language Arts B30*
 - *Any 30 level Mathematics **
 - *One of Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Physics 30*
 - *One of Social Studies 30, History 30 or Native Studies 30*

**Revised Mathematics Curriculum Requirement for applicants who graduate in 2013 or later*

*Foundations of Math 30 or Pre-Calculus 30
(replacing any 30 level math above)*

- *English Language Requirement*

NOTE:

**Your admission average will be calculated by averaging the grades of the five courses listed above and/or using approved equivalent courses (see #4).*

Applicants who do not meet the minimum overall average of 65% in the required courses will not be considered for admission.

Selection Criteria:

Step 1: Average will be calculated on high school subjects required for admission (see Admission Requirements above)

Step 2: Additional points for relevant post-secondary education (as determined by the Program Head)

NOTE:

**If a course is used to meet an admission requirement, it will not be re-used under selection criteria as relevant post-secondary education*

4. What does the Practical Nursing program consider to be “relevant post-secondary education”?

Courses from the Practical Nursing program, successful completion of the Continuing Care Assistant program and courses from the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS)

If I do have credit for any of these courses, how does it benefit me?

You will receive additional points for relevant post-secondary education courses taken.

Additional Percentage Points will be added to the Average

Practical Nursing	CCA (must be a graduate)	NEPS	% Points Awarded
NURS 163	COMM 197 & COMM 291	NEPS 112	3
NURS 161	NURS 170 Completer	NEPS 115	3
NURS 171	NURS 173 Completer	NEPS 291 & 292 NEPS 293 & 294	3
NURS 172	NURS 174 Completer	NEPS 291 & 292 NEPS 293 & 294	3
SOC 160			3
SOC 260			3
SOC 261			3
APHY 162		NEPS 118 & NEPS 119	3
APHY 262			3
PHAR 160			3

5. What type of information should be included with my application when I submit it to SIAST?

*In order to ensure that your application is complete, you will need to submit the SIAST application form and application fee **between October 1 and February 15**. All required documents including the High Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing or official transcripts for post-secondary education and high school upgrading **must be received by February 28 / 29 to be considered**.*

6. I have completed high school courses through Basic Education at SIAST. Will these count?

*An official transcript must be sent **electronically** by Ministry of Education in order for the courses to be considered in the assessment of the application.*

7. I am currently in Grade 12 and have submitted my application but I am not sure what my final Grade 12 average will be. What should I do?

If final grade 12 marks are available, they should be reported on the High Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form. If a mid-term grade is available or if your counselor is willing to project a grade for courses started but not yet completed, they can report that grade on the form. If projected mid-term or final grade 12 marks are not provided, SIAST will use the final grade 11 mark for any specific course. The final grade 11 mark may also be submitted on the High Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form or may be provided on a copy of the previous year's Ministry of Education transcript.

Any grades other than final grades will be considered interim grades until official final transcripts are received.

8. I have completed my Grade 12 and already meet the admission requirements, but I am upgrading to increase my chances of admission into the program. Does my upgrading count towards my application score?

Yes, if you are still registered in the course(s), the High-Demand Preliminary Statement of High School Standing must be submitted with a projected grade(s) by the deadline date of February 28 / 29 in order to be considered in the assessment of the application.

9. I have taken additional post-secondary education and have marks in courses such as English and Biology that are higher than my high school marks. Will these count?

*Yes. If you have higher marks in **equivalent** post-secondary courses, which SIAST has approved, the higher mark will be used to calculate your overall average.*

The following chart outlines some examples of approved equivalent courses:

Grade 12 Courses Required for Admission	University of Regina Courses	University of Saskatchewan Courses
English Language Arts A30 and B30	English 100	English 110
One of Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Physics 30	Biology 140 or 150, Chemistry 100	Chemistry 112

Note: *similar courses from other recognized post-secondary institutions may also be considered.*

10. If I am not accepted into the Practical Nursing program this year, do I have to reapply?

Yes. You will need to reapply to the Practical Nursing program on an annual basis, during the application period, and meet all admission requirements and selection criteria for the intake in which you are applying.

11. I meet the admission requirements. Why can't you just put my name on a waitlist and call me when a seat is available?

SIAST eliminated its waitlist when it changed its admissions policy a few years ago in response to stakeholder concerns. The new admission policy enables prospective students seeking admission into high demand programs to more proactively manage their education.

If you require further information, please contact Counselling Services or Registration Services at 1-866-467-4278.