

# Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan Second Degree Entry Option Frequently Asked Questions

Intake May 2010

## 1. What is the NEPS Second Degree Entry Option? How does it differ from the regular NEPS?

The NEPS Second Degree Entry Option is not a separate program, but rather an option within the existing Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan. The purpose of the option is to recognize previous university achievements of qualified students and provide them with the opportunity to receive a B.S.N. in a shortened period of time. It is available to students who have completed a baccalaureate degree, or have made significant progress toward a degree in another field. The option provides an opportunity for full-time intensive study (six consecutive terms) with program completion in less than two calendar years. Students graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Saskatchewan and are eligible to apply for licensure with the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA).

Students who pursue and complete the regular NEPS receive the same credential. Courses are taken over four years, and opportunities for part-time studies or reduced course loads do exist. The regular NEPS is open to students with either high school or post-secondary education.

## 2. What are the Second Degree Entry Option admission requirements?

Applicants must have a completed baccalaureate degree of at least 90 credit units from a post-secondary institution recognized by the University of Saskatchewan, OR they must have made significant progress toward a degree (completed 90 credit units of recognized post-secondary study by April 30, 2010, with at least 36 credit units at the senior level). Senior level courses are defined as comparable to courses at the 200 level and beyond at the University of Saskatchewan.

Admission is competitive. A minimum average of 70% is required. A competitive average will be calculated on post-secondary coursework completed before December 31, 2009. Your average will be calculated as follows:

- An initial average will be calculated on your most recent 60 credit units of coursework. **All** courses within each academic year must be included.
- As a second step, previous year(s) of coursework will be included if this improves your competitive average, from most recent to oldest. **All** courses within each academic year must be included.

Applicants with averages less than 70% will not be considered.

Although coursework completed between January and April 2010 will not be used in the competitive admission average, the coursework will count toward admission and pre-requisite requirements, and you will be required to maintain a 70% average.

Note that applicants should be in good health. Once accepted into the option, students are required to obtain Standard First Aid and CPR HeartSaver 'C' AED or equivalent. Results of a criminal records check must be provided no later than July 31, 2010.

### **3. What courses are considered acceptable for fulfilling the required university level pre-requisites identified in the admission requirements?**

Applicants with **all** pre-requisite courses will be given preference over those who are deficient in one or more pre-requisites, regardless of post-secondary GPA.

To be taken into consideration, any and all pre-requisite courses must be completed by May 1, 2010.

Acceptable pre-requisites are determined by the University of Saskatchewan. Listed below are some common equivalencies. Questions regarding other acceptable pre-requisites should be vetted through SIAST Registration Services. If your education is from an educational institution other than the U of S or the U of R, you must provide a **course syllabus** for the required prerequisite courses, particularly statistics, nutrition and anatomy and physiology.

The following courses are pre-requisites to the option.

#### **Statistics – 3 credits from the following list of courses:**

Athabasca University:	MATH 215
SIAST:	STATS 120
University of Regina:	STATS 151
University of Saskatchewan:	
COMM 104.3	COMM 207.3
EDPSY 441.3	GE 210.3
PL SC 314.3	PSY 233.3
PSY 234.3	SOC 240.3
STATS 242.3	STATS 244.3
STATS 245.3	STATS 246.3

#### **Nutrition – 3 credits from the following list of courses:**

Athabasca University:	NUTR 331
University of Saskatchewan:	NUTR 120

#### **Anatomy & Physiology – 6 credits from the following list of courses:**

Athabasca University:	BIOL 235.6
SIAST:	APHY 162 <b>and</b> APHY 262 <b>and</b> NURS 117
University of Saskatchewan:	BIOL 317.3 <b>and</b> BIOL 318.3 * BIOL 217 <b>and</b> BIOL 218 ** HSC 208.6 PHSIO 212.6

\* Acceptable for NEPS Second Degree Entry Option only

\*\* No longer offered but acceptable as pre-requisites

**Humanities – 3 credits from the following subject areas:**

Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology	International Studies
Classical, Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies	Philosophy
English	Religious Studies
French	Russian
German	Spanish
History	Ukrainian
	Women’s and Gender Studies

**Social Sciences – 9 credits from the following subject areas:**

Anthropology and Archaeology	Political Studies
Business Economics	Psychology
Economics	Public Administration
Geography (Human)	Regional and Urban Development
International Studies	Sociology
Land Use and Environmental Studies	Sociology of Biotechnology
Linguistics	Women’s and Gender Studies
Native Studies	

**4. What deficiencies are permitted?**

If space is available in the program, applicants **may** be admitted with a maximum of two pre-requisite deficiencies, which must be addressed as noted below.

<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>Deficiency Allowed?</b>	<b>Deficiency must be cleared by:</b>
Humanities 3 cu	No	
Social Science 9 cu	Yes, 3 cu only	End of Term E
Statistics 3 cu	Yes	End of Term B2
Nutrition 3 cu	Yes	End of Term B2
Anatomy and Physiology 6 cu	No	

**5. What about transcripts?**

Official transcripts are required for each post-secondary institution you have attended. Transcripts must be sent directly to SIAST by the Registrar’s Office of the issuing institution (or other office maintaining such records).

- You must arrange for a final, official transcript of all coursework completed to the end of December 2009.
- You must submit an unofficial transcript or proof of registration of the courses you are registered in between January and April 2010.
- A final, official transcript must be sent directly to SIAST when **all** courses are complete.

## 6. What are the acceptable proofs of English proficiency?

Note that applicants who have attended secondary or post-secondary institutions where the only language of instruction and examination is English may be considered exempt from the English Proficiency Requirement.

English is the language of instruction and examination in the NEPS Second Degree Entry Option. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide proof of English proficiency. Any of the following are acceptable:

- A completed Grade 12 standing with a final grade of 70% or more in English Language Arts (ELA) A30 and B30. Note however that if this completion, including the required ELA standing, occurred more than five years ago, additional proof of English proficiency is required.
- A score of at least 580 on the **paper-based** Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a sub-score of at least 50 in each of listening and speaking, and at least 5.0 in each of writing and reading.
- A score of at least 90 on the **Internet-based** TOEFL (TOEFL iBT), with minimum sub-scores as follows: reading 20, writing 20, speaking 26, and listening 22. Sylvan Learning Centre in Saskatoon offers the TOEFL. Visit [www.toefl.com](http://www.toefl.com) for information about the test, test preparation, and test locations around the world.
- A score of 8+ on the Canadian Language Benchmarks Assessment (CLBA). The CLBA measures English proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- A score of at least 4.5 in each of listening, reading and writing, and a score of at least 5.0 in speaking, on the Canadian Test for English Scholars and Trainees (CanTEST). The CanTEST, and CanTEST preparation courses, are offered at the Centre for Second Language Instruction at the University of Saskatchewan ([www.usask.ca](http://www.usask.ca)).
- Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment score of 70 or higher, with a sub-score of at least 70 in speaking, and sub-scores of no less than 60 on all other components. The CAEL is primarily offered in Eastern Canada. Visit [www.cael.ca](http://www.cael.ca) for details.
- A score of at least 85, with a minimum score of 3+ on the speaking test, on the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). This test is primarily offered in the U.S., although there are some Canadian test locations. Visit [www.umich.edu](http://www.umich.edu) for details.
- A score of at least Band 7.0, with at least 7.0 in speaking, on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Academic Module. This test is offered throughout the world with a few test locations in Canada. Visit [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) for details.
- University of Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) with a grade of C or higher. Visit [www.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cam.ac.uk) for details.

Applicants who have attended secondary or post-secondary institutions where the only language of instruction and examination is English may be considered exempt from the English Proficiency Requirement. For details, please contact SIAST Registration Services.

**7. What is the cost of the option?**

The current **2009** cost per credit unit is \$165. Tuition, books and materials for the full option will be approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000. Tuition and other costs are subject to change. Costs associated with clinical experience (that may occur outside of Saskatoon) are the responsibility of the student (e.g., accommodation and transportation).

**8. Where will the option be offered?**

The option is jointly offered by SIAST and the University of Saskatchewan. All courses will be delivered at the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon.

**9. When does the NEPS Second Degree Entry Option begin?**

In 2010, the NEPS Second Degree Entry program begins on May 3. There is **one** intake to this program each year.

**NOTE: A mandatory Orientation and Registration session will be held as follows:**

**April 30, 2010  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Room B3, Health Sciences Building  
University of Saskatchewan**

**10. How is the option structured? Are there any breaks?**

The program is slightly less than two calendar years and consists of 86 credit units. Terms vary in length and there are short breaks scheduled between terms. The option begins in May 2010, and finishes in spring 2012. A more detailed schedule will be provided upon admission to the program.

**11. Is part-time study allowed?**

Part-time study options will not be allowed in this program option. Students must be prepared for full time intensive study for the entire length of the option.

**12. How many students will be admitted?**

There will be an intake of 78 students.

**13. If I am currently in Year 1 of the NEPS, may I apply to transfer to the Second Degree Entry Option?**

Transfers will not be allowed. Students who are currently enrolled in the regular option of NEPS cannot apply for admission to the Second Degree Entry Option. You are advised to contact Chris Barlow at 659-4475 ([chris.barlow@siast.sk.ca](mailto:chris.barlow@siast.sk.ca)), or Hope Bilinski at 966-8982, ([hope.bilinski@usask.ca](mailto:hope.bilinski@usask.ca)), if you require further information.

**14. Will this option be offered through distance learning?**

Currently this option is not available through distance learning.