

PN Program Application Package

The Practical Nursing (PN) program at North Island College (NIC) offers students a provincial curriculum. NIC participates in the post-secondary BC Transfer System which facilitates students' mobility between similar programs in the province's public post-secondary education institutions.

Information about Practical Nursing can be obtained from the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of BC, www.clpnbc.org. Additional information on the role of the Practical Nurse can be found on the BC Ministry of Health Services website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/ in a document entitled "Effectively Utilizing BC's Licensed Practical Nurses and Care Aides".

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Please be advised that there are upcoming changes in Practical Nursing education in the province of British Columbia as a result of an increase in the LPN competencies at the provincial and national levels. We expect the following:
 - Program admission requirements may change to reflect new program design.
 - Program length may increase to add at least one additional semester.
 - Graduates of the new program will receive a Diploma in Practical Nursing instead of the current Certificate.

Once the curriculum is finalized and program status is confirmed by the Ministry, we will be holding sessions to bring everyone up to date on the changes.

Academic Admission Requirements

Prospective students must meet the following academic requirements:

1. Minimum C in Provincial English 12. This requirement can also be met through NIC ENG 060, ENG 098, or equivalent, or successful English Placement Test.
2. Minimum C in one of the following Biology courses: Biology 12, NIC BIO 060, or equivalent. (This prerequisite must have been completed within 10 years prior to the start of the program.)
3. Minimum C in one of the following Math options or their equivalents: Principles of Math 11, Applications of Math 12, or NIC MAT 053, or successful Math Placement Test.

Official transcripts must be submitted to provide proof of academic requirements. Transcripts are only considered official when they bear the seal and signature of the institution or agency from which they were sent. Post secondary transcripts must be in a sealed envelope from the sending institution.

Information collected in this application package is collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act and constitutes a part of the student's personal record.

Other Admission Requirements

In addition to fulfilling the academic admission requirements listed above, a prospective student must submit the following which, with the exception of the Application for Admission, are included in the PN Program Application Package.

1. Application for Admission to NIC (available online at www.nic.bc.ca)
2. Student Information Form
3. Health Information Bulletin
4. Program Information Bulletin

Mail the completed forms directly to:

Admissions
Port Alberni Campus
North Island College
3699 Roger Street
Port Alberni BC V9Y 8E3

Note: It is the student's responsibility to be certain that all components of the application are complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Students are encouraged to complete the admission requirements as soon as possible as acceptance into the program is assessed by the completion date of these requirements.

Waitlists:

A Practical Nursing applicant becomes qualified and is placed on the program waitlist according to the date that the application is complete.

You may become "conditionally qualified" and move on to our waitlist on the date that you submit proof of enrollment in final prerequisite courses that may reasonably be completed in time for the program intake. This status is applicable ONLY if all other required documentation is submitted.

Once you are placed on the waitlist you will receive a letter to confirm this.

Before Classes Begin:

Once the student has been accepted to the program, the student will be required to:

1. Complete the math evaluation process – please refer to the NIC Calendar for additional information.
 2. Hold a current CPR Health Care Provider Level certificate, or equivalent. A photocopy of this certificate must be provided on the first day of class. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain certification throughout the program. Check with your local registration office for available courses.
 3. Complete a Workplace Hazardous Material Information System course. A photocopy of this certificate must be provided on the first day of class.
 4. Submit a completed immunization form. This form will be sent to you once you are offered a seat in the program. This form must be validated by the public health nurse at your local health unit. The test must indicate Rubella IgG reactive and Varicella immune status. This form must be provided on the first day of class.
 5. Complete a criminal record check (CRC). A CRC is mandatory and must be completed prior to entry into the program. Processing costs will be incurred by the student. Information on when to proceed with completing a CRC and the instructions will be sent to you by the admissions office at the appropriate time.
 6. Attend a group orientation session. This mandatory session is designed to provide students with an orientation to the classroom, lab, and practice components of the program. Students will receive information and strategies that will assist them in being successful in the program. Individual interviews may also be scheduled at the instructor's discretion.
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PN Student Information Form

Personal Information

Please notify the College if there is a change in any of the information provided herein.

Full Name: _____

Former Surname: _____ Birthdate: (yy/mm/dd) _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

High School Education

Grade completed: _____ Date: _____

Location: _____

Post-secondary Education

Other courses, training camps, seminars, etc.

PN Health Information Bulletin

Applicant's Name: _____

The PN program has 49 weeks of compressed content, including a preceptorship of 5 weeks which provides opportunities for students to work with individuals, families, groups, and communities in a variety of settings. Participation in these experiences is essential. These experiences can be physically and emotionally demanding. Students experiencing illnesses or health conditions may find coping difficult and find it necessary to interrupt their studies.

Listed below are some examples of activities that students will be engaged in and commonly encounter during their educational program and/or when providing care to clients:

- Frequent hand washing
- Physical actions that require:
 - mobility,
 - strength,
 - endurance,
 - manual dexterity and the ability to function in limited spaces,
 - ability to perform repetitive movements, and
 - bending, reaching, walking, and carrying objects.
- Emotionally stressful situations
- Activities that require adequate sensory perception – sight, hearing and touch
- Exposure to environmental smells and noise
- Distractions
- Unpredictable behaviour from those around you

Please be informed that this list is not an exclusive one. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the PN program Department Chair or faculty.

Having read the above with care and attention, your signature will reflect your understanding of the above information and its implication.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PN Program Information Bulletin

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information to help you decide if the PN program is right for you at this time. Please consider the following information very carefully.

The PN program will be an intense experience for our students.

- You will be required to **attend class** approximately 30 hours a week in this full-time program. There is a considerable amount of pre-reading and several assignments which must be done outside of class time. Our students estimate that there is an additional 3-5 hours per night of homework, as well as several hours on weekends.
- Some students find the pace of the PN program very taxing and quickly learn the advantage of **academic preparedness**. Familiarity with computers and associated technology is an expectation for students who are entering the health care field.
- A **stable, supportive living environment** and a satisfactory place in which to study are important considerations.
- **Experiential learning and group interaction**. The PN program engages students in active learning. You will be expected to take part in role plays, especially in lab, class presentations, and to share your experiences.
- **Constructive feedback and evaluation**. Although most of us state that we welcome constructive feedback and evaluation, it is common to experience discomfort and defensiveness when receiving it. Please consider your past experiences with feedback and evaluation, and your level of sensitivity to it. Please reflect on your willingness to receive constructive feedback and use it to improve your skills and performance.
- **Confidentiality**. It is our intent to provide a safe environment for students to share their personal growth experiences while in the PN program; therefore, you will be expected to keep all personal information shared in the classroom and in the clinical setting confidential.
- **Financial resources and support** are also important considerations. Tuition costs are available on the NIC website. Costs related to textbooks and student manuals, transportation to and from clinical experiences, student association fees, lab fees, uniforms, etc., are extra. For information about applying for student loans please contact the Financial Aid Advisor at the Campus to which you have applied.
- Students are required to provide their own **transportation** to and from classes and clinical practice sites at health care facilities and in the community. Practice experience placements may require that the students work **evening and/or weekend shifts**. Practice experience placements will be in various communities and students will be expected to **commute**.

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- The Standards of Practice and Competencies for Licensed Practical Nurses (see www.clpnbc.bc.ca) are founded in a belief system that embraces ethical caring and a holistic perspective on health and wellness. The health care field agrees upon strongly held **values** including, but not exclusively, confidentiality, a belief in people's right to self-determination, and a non-judgmental attitude of respect and acceptance including racial, ethnic and cultural diversity, sexual preference, family grouping, handicapping conditions, and others. Students will encounter a variety of clients from diverse social and economic backgrounds, and age groups. For some individuals, **personally held values or beliefs may be in opposition** to those expected in this type of work.
- **Personal issues.** The PN program deals with issues that can be distressing to most of us (including elder abuse, spousal abuse, divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, communicable diseases, and death and dying). Consider your personal experiences with these situations and reflect on your ability to handle your own feelings. For some students, present life situations or the need to work through **past experiences** may mean that this is not the best time to enter the program.

Having read the above with care and attention, your signature will reflect your understanding of the above information and its implication.

Signature: _____

Date: _____