

# PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER

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## Program Outline

<b>Major:</b>	PSWR
<b>Length:</b>	1 Year
<b>Delivery:</b>	2 Semesters
<b>Credential:</b>	Ontario College Certificate
<b>Effective:</b>	2014-2015
<b>Location:</b>	Barrie, Midland, Muskoka, Orangeville, Owen Sound, South Georgian Bay
<b>Start:</b>	Fall (Barrie, Midland, Muskoka, Orangeville, Owen Sound, South Georgian Bay), Winter (Barrie, Muskoka, Orangeville, South Georgian Bay), Summer (Orangeville, Owen Sound, South Georgian Bay)

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### Description

This program is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide support services to people living at home, in long term care or acute care facilities, and to function as integral members of the health care team. Upon successful completion of this program, the graduate will have demonstrated the ability to effectively communicate with clients, families and members of the health care team. They will also have demonstrated their ability to provide safe and competent care for individual clients who are experiencing physical, cognitive, emotional and behavioural challenges. Personal Support Workers (PSWs) are unregulated health care providers who work under the supervision of a regulated health care professional or in the supported independent living environment under the direction of the client.

### Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Personal Support Worker program find employment in retirement homes, long term care facilities, homes for the aged, various community agencies (private and public), acute care facilities as well as in independent practice. They provide clearly identified personal care and they facilitate routine activities of daily living in order to assist their clients in being as healthy and as independent as possible.

### Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- act within the personal support worker role, under supervision, and by following care/service plans and established policies and procedures;
- participate as a member of care/service teams in both community and institutional settings;
- use, under supervision, basic knowledge, care/service plans, and established policies and procedures;
- provide client-centered and client-directed care under supervision and by following care/service plans and established policies and procedures, in both community and institutional settings;
- make, collect, and report to the supervisor relevant observations in an ongoing and timely manner and record this information promptly;
- support the client's personal care requirements by following care/service plans and established policies and procedures;
- support the client's home management services by following care/service plans and established policies and procedures;
- communicate effectively and appropriately using oral, written, and nonverbal methods;
- assist in the promotion and maintenance of a safe and comfortable environment for clients, their families, self, and others;
- perform the personal support worker role in an ethical manner and within the law;
- develop environmental awareness and implement related initiatives relevant to the profession.

### **The Program Progression:**

Fall Intake - Barrie, Midland, Muskoka, Orangeville, Owen Sound, South Georgian Bay

Sem 1 | Sem 2

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Fall | Winter  
2014 | 2015

Winter Intake - Barrie, Muskoka, Orangeville, South Georgian Bay

Sem 1 | Sem 2

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Winter | Summer  
2015 | 2015

Summer Intake - Orangeville, Owen Sound, South Georgian Bay

Sem 1 | Sem 2

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**Admission Requirements:**

You must meet ONE of the following requirements to be eligible for admission to these programs:

Secondary school applicants:

- OSS Curriculum: OSSD or equivalent
- Grade 12 English (C ) or ( U ) (ENG4C, ENG4U) is strongly recommended and will be used in selection. Also recommended: Grade 11 College Biology (SBI3C).

Non-Secondary school applicants (19 years or older):

- Any credit Communication course taken at Georgian College
- College preparatory programs including those taken at Georgian College: Pre-health Sciences\*
- Equivalent courses in English taken through secondary school or Independent Learning Centres (at the general, advanced, college or university level)
- Academic and Career Entrance Certificate (ACE) program with communications
- Mature student testing in English that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through most testing services)\*
- Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate (GED)
- English, Literature or Communication credit courses from accredited colleges/universities

Home school applicants:

- Applicants can write the mature student testing in English that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through testing services)\*

\* available from Georgian College. For a complete listing please contact the Office of the Registrar.

Non-secondary school applicants who are 19 years of age or over by the first day of classes, and who lack the academic entrance qualifications, may be considered for entrance to an appropriate post-secondary diploma or certificate program as mature applicants. Mature applicants must meet all program specific prerequisites including all selection criteria; equivalencies are stated above. Applicants who are unsure whether they meet admission requirements should contact the Office of the Registrar. In addition, those applying as mature students and having no documentation of Grade 12 education must supply, if required, proof of age, such as a copy of an official birth certificate or driver's licence. Refer to Section 2.5 and 2.6 of the Academic Calendar for further details.

Credit transfer and course exemptions:

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may be eligible for credit transfer/course exemptions. Courses/experience must match at least 80% of the learning outcomes of a Georgian College course with a minimum grade of 60% or C achieved in previous coursework; some program exceptions apply (see program outline). For further information please visit the Credit Transfer Centre website: [georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/](http://georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/)

### **Additional Information:**

Clinical Placement Requirements:

In order to provide quality practicum placements, students will be placed in a variety of agencies in the region serviced by the campus. Students are required to provide their own transportation to and from all clinical placements. Student practicum placements will involve working the same shifts as the PSWs in the practicum agency. For example, day shifts may start as early as 6:00 a.m. and evening shifts may finish at 11:00 p.m.

Applicants must have an up-to-date immunization record in compliance with the Public Hospitals Act. Completion and submission of this record is required during registration in order to ensure your placement in clinical placement facilities.

To be eligible for all practicum placements, students must have:

- a completed Clinical Preparedness Permit
- current (within 1 year) Level HCP CPR and Standard First Aid on admission to the program. Level HCP CPR must be renewed annually while in the program.
- a current police check including a vulnerable sector screen. Please note: an unpardoned criminal record may result in inability to participate in clinical courses and prevent the student from graduating.
- a record of mask fit test (will be done at the college in semester one). Mask fit testing must be renewed every 2 years.

### **Graduation Requirements:**

- 7 Mandatory Courses
- 2 Professional Practice Courses
- 1 Communications Course
- 1 General Education Course

**Graduation Eligibility:**

To graduate from this program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline.

**Mandatory Courses**

BIOL1014 The Essential Body  
PSWR1025 The PSW in the Community  
PSWR1026 Supportive Care 1  
PSWR1027 Professional Foundations of PSW 1  
PSWR1029 Health Challenges  
PSWR1030 Supportive Care 2  
PSWR1031 Professional Foundations of PSW 2

**Professional Practice Courses**

PSWR1033 PSW Professional Practice 1 Long Term Care  
PSWR1034 PSW Professional Practice 2 Community

**Communications Course**

To be selected at time of registration from the College list, as determined by testing.

**General Education Course**

To be selected from College list

**Course Descriptions:**

BIOL1014 The Essential Body 42.0 Hours

This course will provide the student with a foundational overview of human anatomy from a systems perspective including but not limited to the gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, integumentary, immune, endocrine and reproductive systems. Focus will be on the inter relationships of these systems as it relates to normal human function.

PSWR1025 The PSW in the Community 28.0 Hours

The course focuses on the role of the PSW working in community settings. Students will develop an understanding of the community resources available to clients. Students will also explore growth and development through the life cycle, family dynamics, human sexuality, home management, family violence, palliative care, interprofessional care and discharge planning.

**PSWR1026 Supportive Care 1 56.0 Hours**

This course presents the principles of the basic skills needed by the PSW to assist clients with activities of daily living. Students will learn theory related to infection control, hygiene, mobility, safety and nutrition and will be provided with laboratory time to practice the skills related to these concepts.

**PSWR1027 Professional Foundations of PSW 1 28.0 Hours**

This course introduces students to the role and professional expectations of the Personal Support Worker. Students will learn about professionalism, person centered care, the Canadian Health Care System, the role of the PSW, documentation, communication (verbal and non-verbal) and team building. The concepts of accountability and reflective practice will also be introduced.

**PSWR1029 Health Challenges 56.0 Hours**

This course explores common health challenges and discusses specific diseases related to cognitive, developmental, mental and physical health. Students will learn to identify the role of the PSW in relationship to the health challenges. Concepts of acute and chronic diseases along with health maintenance and health restoration are also covered.

P- BIOL1014 The Essential Body

**PSWR1030 Supportive Care 2 56.0 Hours**

This course presents the principles of more advanced skills required in the role of the PSW. Students will learn theory related to assessment, urinary catheters, ostomy care, oxygen therapy, wound care, vital signs, glucometers and insulin pens, medications, suctioning and post-mortem care. Students will be provided with laboratory time to practice the skills related to these concepts.

P- PSWR1026 Supportive Care 1 and C- PSWR1032 PSW Professional Practice 2

**PSWR1031 Professional Foundations of PSW 2 42.0 Hours**

The course will foster further professional development of the PSW student. Concepts covered in this course include critical thinking, ethics and advocacy, conflict resolution, leadership and accountability. Students will also learn about abuse, diversity, stress management, and professional organizations. Career preparation, including resume writing and interview techniques, will also be discussed.

P- PSWR1027 Professional Foundations of PSW 1

**PSWR1033 PSW Professional Practice 1 Long Term Care 98.0 Hours**

Students are provided with a supervised opportunity with a clinical instructor to demonstrate the knowledge, skill and competence to provide safe and effective care to clients in a long term care facility. Students are also provided with the opportunity to practice the "hands on" skills needed to assist their clients in their activities of daily living.

C- PSWR1026 Supportive Care 1

PSWR1034 PSW Professional Practice 2 Community 224.0 Hours

Students prepare for practicum placements by exploring the techniques utilized by Personal Support Workers to assist when dealing with clients who have behaviours. Students are provided with a supervised opportunity by an Agency or Client and College mentor during this practicum experience, to demonstrate the knowledge, skill and competence to provide safe and effective care to clients in a community living/facility situation. Students are also provided with the opportunity to practice the "hands on" skills needed to assist their clients in their activities of daily living.

P- PSWR1026 Supportive Care 1 and P- PSWR1033 PSW Professional Practice 1 Long Term Care and C- PSWR1030 Supportive Care 2

### **Course Description Legend**

P = Prerequisite; C = Concurrent prerequisite; CO= Corequisite

*Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.*