PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER

Program: PSWR
Credential: Ontario College Certificate
Delivery: Full-time + Part-time
Work Integrated Learning: 2 Clinical Placements
Length: 2 Semesters
Duration: 1 Year
Effective: Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Summer 2022
Location: Barrie (Fall, Winter), Orangeville (Fall, Winter), Owen Sound (Fall, Summer), South Georgian Bay (Winter) Muskoka (Fall)

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, students learn to effectively communicate with clients, families and members of the health care team, and to provide safe and competent care for individual clients 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 provide and facilitate clearly identified personal care and routine activities of daily living in order to assist clients in being as healthy and as independent as possible. PSW graduates may 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.

Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. work within the personal support worker role in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital care settings in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's job description, policies, procedures and guidelines;
2. act responsibly and be accountable for own actions while recognizing the boundaries of knowledge and skills within the personal support worker role that require collaboration with the clients, families, supervisors and/or other members of the interprofessional care/service team;
3. participate as a member of the interprofessional care/service team and maintain collaborative working relationships in the provision of supportive care in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital care settings;
4. provide client-centred and client-directed care that is based on ethical principles, sensitive to diverse client and family values, beliefs and needs, and which follows the direction of the plan of care/service plan;
5. establish and maintain helping relationships with clients and their families reflecting open communication, professional boundaries, employer's policies and adhering to confidentiality and privacy legislation;
6. identify relevant client information using basic assessment and communication skills and report and document findings in accordance with the requirements of employer policies and procedures and all applicable legislation;
7. promote and maintain a safe and comfortable environment for clients, their families, self and others including the implementation of infection prevention and control measures and emergency first aid procedures that are in keeping with the plan of care/service plan, employer policies and procedures, and all applicable legislation;
8. assist clients across the lifespan with routine activities of daily living by applying basic knowledge of growth and development, common alterations in functioning, disease prevention, health promotion and maintenance, rehabilitation and restorative care;
9. assist clients with medication in keeping with the direction of the plan of care/service plan and under the direction and monitoring of a regulated health professional or most accountable person and in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's policies;
10. assist with household management tasks and instrumental activities of daily living in accordance with the plan of care/service plan and considering the preferences, comfort and safety of clients, families and significant others;
11. assist clients who are caring for dependent individuals considering client and family choices, professional boundaries and the direction of the plan of care/service plan;
12. identify and report situations of neglect, and potential, alleged or witnessed/actual incidents of abuse, and respond in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's policies and procedures;
13. assist in the provision of culturally relevant palliative and end-of-life care to clients experiencing life threatening illness and to their families and significant others from diagnosis through death and bereavement, and in accordance with clients' choices and the plan of care/service plan;
14. use identified approaches and best practices to support positive and safe behaviour in clients experiencing cognitive impairment, mental health challenges and/or responsive behaviours;
15. develop environmental awareness and implement related initiatives relevant to the profession;
16. develop awareness of social entrepreneurial skills that foster positive social change in the community.

Program Progression

The following reflects the planned progression for full-time offerings of the program.

Fall Intake - Barrie, Orangeville, Owen Sound

- **Sem 1:** Fall 2021
- **Sem 2:** Winter 2022

Winter Intake - Barrie, Orangeville, South Georgian Bay

- **Sem 1:** Winter 2022
- **Sem 2:** Summer 2022

Summer Intake - Owen Sound, South Georgian Bay

- **Sem 1:** Summer 2022
- **Sem 2:** Fall 2022

Articulation

A number of articulation agreements have been negotiated with universities and other institutions across Canada, North America and internationally. These agreements are assessed, revised and updated on a regular basis. Please contact the program co-ordinator for specific details if you are interested in pursuing such an option. Additional information can be found on our website at http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/

Admission Requirements

OSSD or equivalent with

- Grade 12 English (C or U)

Mature students, non-secondary school applicants (19 years or older), and home school applicants may also be considered for admission. Eligibility may be met by applicants who have taken equivalent courses, upgrading, completed their GED, and equivalency testing. For complete details refer to: www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/academic-regulations/ (http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/academic-regulations/)

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may also be considered for admission; refer to the Credit Transfer Centre website for details:
www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/ (http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/)

Criminal Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check

Placement agencies require an up-to-date clear criminal reference check and vulnerable sector check prior to going out on placement. Students should obtain their criminal reference three months prior to placement; checks conducted earlier may not be considered current. As some jurisdictions require longer lead-time for processing, please check with the program coordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. It is the student's responsibility to provide the completed document prior to placement start.

NOTE: Individuals who have been charged or convicted criminally and not pardoned will be prohibited from proceeding to a clinical or work placement.

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 (see Criminal Reference Check above);
- 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 Program 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.

Program Tracking

The following reflects the planned course sequence for full-time offerings of the Fall intake of the program. Where more than one intake is offered contact the program co-ordinator for the program tracking.

Semester 1		**Hours**
Program Courses		
BIOL 1014	The Essential Body	42
PSWR 1035	Professional Foundations	42
PSWR 1036	PSW Laboratory Skills	84
PSWR 1037	PSW Community Care	28
PSWR 1038	Palliative Care	28
Communications Course		
Select 1 course from the communications list during registration.		42
General Education Course		
Select 1 course from the general education list during registration.		42
	Hours	308
Semester 2		
Program Courses		
PSWR 1039	Health Challenges and Continuing Care	42
PSWR 1040	Mental Health Challenges and Continuing Care	28
Professional Practice Courses		
PSWR 1041	PSW Professional Practice 1	112
PSWR 1042	PSW Professional Practice 2	224
	Hours	406
	Total Hours	714

Graduation Window

Students unable to adhere to the program duration of one year (as stated above) may take a maximum of two years to complete their credential.

After this time, students must be re-admitted into the program, and follow the curriculum in place at the time of re-admission.

Disclaimer: *The information in this document 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.*

Program outlines may be subject to change in response to emerging situations, in order to facilitate student achievement of the learning outcomes required for graduation. Components such as courses, progression, coop work terms, placements, internships and other requirements may be delivered differently than published.