

## Advanced Standing Pathway Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Is this a full time program?

Yes, This is a full-time program that requires students to take 5 courses each semester. Students will need to devote time to attending class, clinical and completing course readings and assignments.

### 2. Can I still work full time?

While students need to make decisions that support their financial well-being, it is not recommended that you work full time while you complete the program. The program requires a significant investment of time to attend class and clinical as well as to complete course readings and assignments. Working full time may interfere with your ability to engage in the necessary preparation and course studying required to be successful in the program. The program runs in the fall/winter semesters, so this would provide an opportunity to work full time when the semester is not in session (May-August).

**It is highly recommended that you discuss your plans with your immediate supervisor/manager to determine options for flexible scheduling should you choose to work during the program.**

### 3. Is there a part time option for this program?

No, the program does not offer a part-time option.

### 4. How long can I take to complete my studies?

The program is intended to take 3 years to complete. However, students have a maximum of 6 years to complete the program.

### 5. Is there an option to take courses in the summer semester?

The Nursing-specific courses for this program are only offered in the fall and winter semesters, and the program is structured so that students do not take courses during the summer semester. Depending on availability, elective courses may be available to take in the summer months.

### 6. I have a practical nursing certificate instead of a diploma or do not meet the minimum cut off average of 75%, can I still apply to the advance standing program?

The Advanced standing program is designed for Registered Practical Nurses who have obtained a Practical Nursing **Diploma** from a recognized post-secondary institution. If you

do not have a practical nursing diploma or do not meet the 75% cut off score, you do not meet the admission criteria for the program.

You do have the option to apply to our direct entry [Honours Bachelor of Science – Nursing Program](#). This is our 4-year direct entry program and will provide you with the additional course credits required to earn your degree.

## **7. When are class schedules posted?**

Class schedules will vary each semester, depending on the courses and clinical placement areas that students are engaged in. A schedule for the upcoming semester is generally posted 1 month before the start of the new semester. Ex. For the fall semester, the schedule will be available in early August.

Clinical days are subject to more variability and change. While we will try and provide as much notice as possible, for unforeseen circumstances a clinical placement day may change closer to the beginning of the semester and will depend on agency and practicum clinician availability. Preferred scheduling for theory or clinical courses cannot be accommodated.

## **8. What does my class schedule look like?**

Class schedules are full time course loads with 5 courses spread throughout the week. Semester 3 (your first semester) does not have any clinical courses; these begin in semester 4. Theory and lab courses are generally in 2–3-hour blocks. You may have more than one class in a day, with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Some theory courses will be offered in-person which will require you to travel to campus and some will be offered in a synchronous or asynchronous online format where you attend remotely. Lab courses will all be in-person and it is a requirement of the course that you attend all classes offered.

Clinical days are on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays or weekends if necessary in semester 3 and 4 and will depend on the agency you are placed at. In semesters 5-8 clinical days can fall on any day of the week, including weekends. Clinical days can be anywhere from 6-12 hours in length. Please note the above information is subject to change without notice.

Some of the clinical placement courses are offered in an integrated format where you will attend clinical once a week while clinical in later years in the program may be offered in a block format where students engage in all their clinical hours within a three week time frame following a preceptor's schedule. Scheduling for the clinical day will be provided prior to the beginning of the semester when all placements and practicum clinicians supporting the clinical course have been confirmed.

## **9. Can I apply to the advance standing program while I am still completing my RPN diploma?**

No, the Advanced Standing Program is for Practical Nurses who are registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). Applicants must have **completed** their Practical nursing diploma at a recognized post-secondary institution with a graduating GPA of 75% or higher. They must be registered with the CNO, in good standing with the CNO and be entitled to practice with no restrictions.

**10. Travel to Owen Sound Campus for Simulation Learning Experiences:**

Students enrolled at the Orangeville campus will be required to travel to the Owen Sound campus in order to participate in high fidelity simulation learning experiences. These simulation experiences are a required component of the Health Challenges Clinical Practice Courses and included as part of the clinical placement hours. The chart below outlines the requirements for participation in the simulated learning experiences at the Owen Sound campus **for Orangeville students**. Students are responsible for transportation to the Owen Sound campus to participate in these mandatory learning experiences.

**Students enrolled at the Owen Sound and Barrie sites will complete their simulated learning experiences at their respective sites. This only applies to students enrolled at the Orangeville campus.**

Semester	Course	Number of high fidelity simulation days per semester
4	NURS 2018 Health Challenges II - Clinical Practice	2
5	NURS 3003 Health Challenges III - Clinical Practice: Unique Populations	2
6	NURS 3007 Health Challenges IV - Clinical Practice: Communities & Populations	2
7	NURS 4003 Clinical Integration Practicum	2