

PRACTICAL NURSING

(Two Year Post-Secondary Program)

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

Program Dates: Depending on intake date:
September Intake: Year 1—3 Classroom Terms and 3 Practicums; Year 2—2 Classroom Terms and 2 Practicums
January Intake: Year 1--2 Classroom Terms and 2 Practicums; Year 2—3 Classroom Terms and 3 Practicums

Scheduled Breaks: Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks). Other breaks depend on intake date, but usually there is a break of about one month in summer.

Post-Graduation

Work Permit length: Up to 3 years.

Schedule: Theory and Lab Courses: Monday to Friday, 6 hours of class.
Practicums: Various day, evening or overnight shifts, could include Monday to Sunday.

Campus Location: Will depend on intake location: Brandon, Dauphin or Portage La Prairie.
Cannot “transfer” between cities, or to any other location.

Admission Requirements:

Click on the “Admissions” tab under the program name [here](#). Read everything on that page **carefully**. Also click on all colored, underlined links on that page to read about [competitive entry requirements](#), [English language proficiency requirement](#), and to use the [international program application checklist](#).

We also **strongly** encourage you to attend an information session about the program. There is no cost. Click [here](#) to register for a session.

What You’ll Study:

- All students will complete a “College Foundations” online course to develop the skills and attitudes of a successful Canadian student and employee.
- Anatomy and physiology; structure of human body and functioning of body systems. These are very challenging science-based courses, with both theory and lab exams.
- Introduction and foundations of nursing in Canada, within a wellness model.
- Theory and laboratory skills in nursing assessment and personal care of clients, including daily activities related to toileting, bathing, feeding, movement and communication.
- Knowledge and skills for nursing care of clients in acute and chronic phases of illness, including infants, children and families, and in a variety of health care settings.

- Human growth/development, mental health, nutrition, gerontology (science of aging).
- Psychology and sociology. Interpersonal skills and communication. Understanding of culture and social dynamics.
- Pharmacology (drugs and their administration) and the nurse's role in drug therapy.
- Community nursing.
- Practice critical thinking and problem-solving, teamwork, safety, communication and professional leadership.
- See course descriptions [here](#); click on "courses and costs" tab.

How You'll "Learn By Doing"

- Learn and practice assessment and client care skills in nursing lab. You will be assessed regularly on these skills and this will be an important part of your grades for many courses.
- Twenty-five weeks of **unpaid** practicum placements. Five practicum placements in total over two-year diploma. As part of team, provide assessment and care in both acute and long-term health care settings.

What You'll Need to Do to Graduate:

General:

- **This is a challenging program: emotionally, mentally, physically and financially.** And because failing courses or practicum could create unscheduled breaks (gaps) for you, or prevent you from graduating, there are **extra risks for international students** (related to study permit conditions, working part-time, post-graduation work permit eligibility, and extra tuition costs). **We hope you fully inform yourself before you make a decision about this program.**
- Attend all classes, labs and practicum shifts; arrive on time every day.
- Purchase all required textbooks and supplies, including uniforms, shoes and personal protective equipment.
- Work co-operatively in teams. Behave respectfully to all students, instructors, staff and clients.
- Dress appropriately, with specific requirements for labs and practicums.
- Maintain cleanliness of yourself, your uniform and equipment.
- Share work of keeping classroom, laboratory and practicum facility clean.
- Complete required immunizations, at your expense and on your own time—**before** first practicum.
- Keep up to date your Criminal Record Check, Child and Abuse Registry checks, and CPR certification. These will be required for admission, but if any expire before you complete the program, you must re-do them.
- Maintain student registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba (CLPNM).

Theory courses:

- Pass **all** theory classes with required minimum grade. **Many courses will require a minimum 70% grade** (and some 66% or 60%). Attendance, punctuality and professional behavior will be part of grades.

- **Strong English language skills** (reading, writing, listening, speaking) will be required for success. Evaluation will include
 - theory and lab tests;
 - group projects;
 - giving oral presentations;
 - writing research papers, with proper APA references; and
 - practical demonstration of laboratory skills.
- Good **mathematics and problem-solving skills** will be important for theory and practicum, particularly related to pharmacology. You will need to pass a course including math before admission—but that does **not** guarantee that you will pass the math-related parts of the program.
- You will **require a desktop or laptop computer** to complete assignments; assignments cannot be “hand-written”.
- **Do your own work.** Cheating, failing to cite references, or using other people’s work could result in failing grades/suspension. See Policy A25 from this Academic Policies [link](#).

Labs:

- Practice all skills in the lab until you can demonstrate “mastery”—do them correctly and quickly.
- Pass all lab skills testing. **This testing can be very stressful;** you will need to manage your anxiety to perform this testing, often with people other than the instructor in the room.

Practicums:

- Accept the hours assigned to you at Practicum placements. Practicums are unpaid. **You cannot miss Practicum shifts, or be late, because of an off-campus job.** Be ready for various **day, evening or overnight shifts**, could include **Monday to Sunday**.
- Manage physical demands like lifting, bending, using equipment, cleaning beds and rooms, and assisting clients with walking.
- Appropriately and safely work with blood, urine, feces and other bodily fluids.
- You may see clients with serious injury; they may be bleeding and in great pain. Some could die; you may need to provide after-death physical care. **These experiences could be upsetting and traumatic for you;** please consider whether you could manage this emotionally.
- Be patient and kind with clients, including those in poor mental and/or physical health.

How Assiniboine College Can Help You

- Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from nursing workplaces, and will give you specific feedback on your theory and lab progress.
- Learning Curve staff available to assist with study skills, like test-taking and writing papers.
- Student advising staff can offer support for personal issues.

Job Options for Graduates

Work in personal care homes, hospitals, medical clinics, private agencies or the community.

After graduating from Assiniboine's program, you will need to write the licensure exam of the [College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba \(CLPNM\)](#). There will be time limits to pass this exam, to continue employment as an LPN.

The Manitoba credential is recognized across Canada.

Many jobs are part-time or casual. Many jobs will involve evening or nighttime shifts and/or varying shifts.

Possible jobs on Manitoba In-Demand Occupations list: [32101--Licensed Practical Nurses](#).

Other Important Information:

- To do your Practicums, you will need to do "N95 mask fit testing" and may be required to wear an N95 mask during every shift. **An N95 mask requires you to be clean-shaven (no beard)**; if your religious observance forbids this, you will need to request a religious accommodation with official documentation, at the *beginning* of your program.
- **You will require a "Co-op Work Permit"** from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, **before** you can legally start your practicums. If you are applying for your study permit with ACC's letter of acceptance, apply also for your co-op work permit at that time. If you already have a study permit, we will send you co-op letter when you start the program, and you apply for the permit immediately after that.
- If you fail courses, **you will have an "unscheduled break"** and/or **become a part-time student**. You *could not* legally work during any unscheduled break or part-time term, and it would make you **ineligible for a post-graduate work permit**.
- If you fail any course, you will need to re-enter that term the next time it is available, to re-take and pay for the failed course. And, depending on the failed course, you may *also* need to "audit" and pay for *other* courses, *and* demonstrate your practical skills again. This **adds cost and time** to your program.
- If you fail any combination of two "70%" courses and/or practicums, you will not be eligible to "re-enter" the program. You would need to *re-apply* to the program, but the college CANNOT guarantee a seat will be available in another intake. This would mean an **"unscheduled break"** and that you **may not graduate** from the program. **Both are risks for post-graduation work permit eligibility**.
- It will be helpful to have a valid Manitoba **driver's license and access to a car**. Some Practicum placements will be outside of the city and therefore require you to drive daily during the Practicum. See information about driver's license [here](#) and [here](#).

Costs:

- **Tuition:** see website and letter of acceptance.
- **Health insurance:** Approximately \$1000 for each year. **Required**.
- This is an expensive and time-consuming program. **We strongly recommend that you NOT work outside of college, if at all possible**.
- **Uniforms and related supplies and immunizations:** approximately \$6500 over two years. See lists [here](#); click on the "Tools and Supplies" tab. Purchased on your own, not payable to college. Some books and supplies will be required **early** in program.

- **Computer:** This is a “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) program. You will need to bring your own laptop to college. The cost of a laptop is **not** included in the supplies costs above. See more information [here](#).
- **Transportation** to and from college, and to and from practicum placements, is your responsibility.
- **Living costs** are your responsibility.