

## DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL NURSE & HEALTH CARE AIDE

### COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

#### NP1250 (VA2/VL2): Health Assessment – 3 (2-0-3) 75 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

|                      |                |                |                        |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>   | Jaclyn Hayward | <b>PHONE:</b>  | 780-835-6620           |
| <b>OFFICE:</b>       | TBI 235        | <b>E-MAIL:</b> | jhayward@nwpolytech.ca |
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> | By Appointment |                |                        |

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** Introduction to the nursing process and development of assessment skills. Incorporates the use of clinical technologies necessary to conduct a thorough health assessment. Focus is on individuals across the lifespan.

**COREQUISITE(S):** NP1205, NP1280, & NP1500

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Jarvis, C., Browne, A., McDonald-Jenkins, J., & Luctar-Flude, M. (2023). *Physical Examination and Health Assessment* (4th ed.). Elsevier.

Jarvis, C., & Tarlier, D. (2023) *Student Laboratory Manual for Physical Examination and Health Assessment Canadian* (4th ed.). Elsevier

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** In-person – Lecture & Lab

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Identify and describe the steps of the nursing process and their role in patient care.
2. Demonstrate accurate assessment techniques including subjective and objective data collection, physical assessment, and use of various assessment tools.

3. Demonstrate the ability to apply clinical reasoning and make informed clinical judgments by interpreting assessment findings and recognizing potential health concerns during health assessments.
4. Demonstrate the use of anatomy and physiology knowledge when conducting accurate health assessments.
5. Apply principles of client safety and safe nursing practices during assessments.
6. Demonstrate professionalism and adhere to ethical standards when performing health assessments.
7. Document health assessment findings clearly, concisely, and accurately using proper medical terminology.

## TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**\*\* For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

## EVALUATIONS:

| Assignment        | Weight                              | Due Date                                                                                              | Learning Outcomes   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Knowledge Checks  | 15% (3% x 6 quizzes, 2% x 1st quiz) | Outside of class checks are due Fridays by 2100<br>Sept 12, 26, Oct 10, 24,<br>Nov 7, 21, Dec 5, 2025 | 1, 3                |
| Midterm Exam      | 25%                                 | October 14, 2025 @ 11am                                                                               | 1, 3                |
| Ticket to Lab     | 15% (1% Each)                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> 15 minutes of each lab class.                                                         | 1, 2, 3             |
| Lab Participation | 10% (1% Each)                       | Graded at Midterm Exam and Final Exam.                                                                | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OSCE              | Pass/Fail                           | November 28, 2025                                                                                     | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| Final Exam        | 35%                                 | During Exam Week                                                                                      | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6       |

\*All Evaluations must be completed to be successful in this course

## **1. Knowledge Checks**

Knowledge checks will be completed throughout the course to support your learning and reinforce key concepts. These short reviews will cover a variety of topics and may include question formats such as multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and select-all-that-apply.

Knowledge checks may be assigned either during class time or outside of class, at the discretion of the instructor, and may be given on short notice. To ensure fairness and encourage independent learning, knowledge checks will be delivered in the *Quizzes* section of the course platform with a set time limit.

## **2. Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam includes all content, including lectures, required readings, laboratory components, and posted materials, covered up to Week 6. Question format includes a variety of styles including, but not limited to, multiple choice, short answer, long answer, matching, and select all that apply.

## **3. Ticket to Lab**

The purpose of Ticket to Lab is to encourage preparatory reading for each week. They will be a 3-5 question quiz weighted at 1% each and will be completed at the beginning of each lab day. Students will have 1-attempt to complete each quiz. Missed quizzes will be assigned a score of zero. There will be no deferred or make-up quizzes.

## **4. Laboratory Participation**

Attendance is recorded for each student in each lab. It is recommended all students attend drop-in lab times to ensure competencies and skills are met. An email must be submitted prior to the missed lab. It is the instructor's discretion to determine if the absence is excusable or not, unexcused absences will result in a 0 for that lab. To receive full marks for laboratory participation, students must: arrive prepared with the appropriate materials, have read lab material, dressed in appropriate attire, and participate actively in each lab. Rubric posted on D2L.

## 5. Laboratory OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination)

Students will perform a focused assessment on a standardized patient. Further instruction and rubric will be posted on D2L. Students must pass the OSCE to receive credit in the course.

Students will have a total of three attempts to pass the OSCE. The three attempts include the initial OSCE test and no more than two OSCE re-tests. All OSCE re-testing must be completed prior to the end of the course to receive a pass in NP 1250. If the student is unsuccessful in passing the OSCE after three attempts, the student will be deemed unsuccessful in the course.

## 6. Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative and includes all content covered throughout the course with a focus on information learned from week 7 and on. Question format includes a variety of styles including, but not limited to, multiple choice, short answer, long answer, matching, and select all that apply. Scheduling of the final exam is set by the Registrar's Office.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines |  | Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A+          | 4.0                | 95-100                |  | C+          | 2.3                | 67-69                 |
| A           | 4.0                | 85-94                 |  | C           | 2.0                | 63-66                 |
| A-          | 3.7                | 80-84                 |  | C-          | 1.7                | 60-62                 |
| B+          | 3.3                | 77-79                 |  | D+          | 1.3                | 55-59                 |
| B           | 3.0                | 73-76                 |  | D           | 1.0                | 50-54                 |
| B-          | 2.7                | 70-72                 |  | F           | 0.0                | 00-49                 |

Grades for this course will be assigned as a percentage. The minimum passing grade is 60%.



## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

| Week   | Topic                                                                                                | Lab Component                                                                             | Text Resource                          |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Critical Thinking and Evidence-Informed Assessment<br>Assessment Techniques and the Clinical Setting | Introduction to the Laboratory setting and various assessment tools                       | Chapter 1<br>Chapter 9                 |
| Week 2 | General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs                                                         | Assessment Techniques<br>General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs                     | Chapter 10                             |
| Week 3 | Pain Assessment<br>Nutritional Assessment                                                            | General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs<br>Pain Assessment<br>Nutritional Assessment | Chapter 11<br>Chapter 12               |
| Week 4 | Skin, Hair, and Nails<br>Head and Neck                                                               | Vital Signs<br>Skin, Hair, and Nails<br>Head and Neck                                     | Chapter 13<br>Chapter 14               |
| Week 5 | Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth, and Throat                                                                  | Vital Signs<br>Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth, and Throat                                        | Chapter 15<br>Chapter 16<br>Chapter 17 |
| Week 6 | Neurological                                                                                         | Vital Signs<br>Neurological                                                               | Chapter 25                             |
| Week 7 | Thorax and Lungs                                                                                     | Thorax and Lungs<br>Vitals Sign                                                           | Chapter 19                             |
| Week 8 | Heart and Neck Vessels<br>Peripheral Vascular                                                        | Vital Signs<br>Heart and Neck Vessels<br>Peripheral Vascular                              | Chapter 20<br>Chapter 21               |
| Week 9 | Abdomen<br>Genitourinary                                                                             | Vital Signs<br>Abdomen<br>Genitourinary                                                   | Chapter 22<br>Chapter 23<br>Chapter 26 |

|         |                                                  |                                                                         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|         |                                                  |                                                                         | Chapter 27               |
| Week 10 | Musculoskeletal<br>Functional Assessment         | Musculoskeletal<br>Functional Assessment<br>Vital Signs                 | Chapter 24<br>Chapter 31 |
| Week 11 | Fall Break                                       |                                                                         |                          |
| Week 12 | Complete Health Assessment<br>Bedside Assessment | Vital Signs<br>Bedside Assessment<br>Head to Toe                        | Chapter 28<br>Chapter 29 |
| Week 13 | Mental Health Assessment                         | OSCE<br>Mental Health Assessment<br>Vitals                              | Chapter 6                |
| Week 14 | Pregnancy                                        | OSCE Repeats as needed<br>Head to Toe<br>Pregnancy Assessment<br>Vitals | Chapter 30               |
| Week 15 | Final Exam Review                                |                                                                         |                          |

**\*Subject to change, please refer to D2L for up to date schedule**

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information in this Course Outline and the PN student handbook and to clarify any areas of concern with the instructor. It is also your responsibility to be familiar with NWP Policies. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the policies that might impact you while you are here:

- Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide Handbook: [Practical Nurse Handbook](#)

## STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.



## Additional Information:

### LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

To obtain credit in the course ALL assignments and examinations must be completed. Students are expected to make every effort to complete assignments on time. Assignment submissions are expected on the date determined by faculty.

If extensions are necessary, they may be requested up to **48 hours prior** to the assignment due date and should be submitted in writing to the faculty member involved. Not all extensions will be granted. In exceptional situations, extension requests within the 48-hour period may be considered.

Late assignments will have 5% of total marks (or one letter grade) for the assignment deducted for each day/partial day (including weekend days) beyond the due time. For example, a paper marked at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late. After 5 days, a grade of 0 will be awarded to the assignment.

If the late penalty places the grade below the necessary pass grade, students will be unsuccessful in the course. When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the assignment has been received. Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved.