

DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL NURSE AND HEALTH CARE AIDE

COURSE OUTLINE –Winter 2026

NP1250 (A3/L1/L2/L3): 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.

INSTRUCTOR: Kelsi Fowler
OFFICE: HEC 343
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment Only

PHONE:
E-MAIL: KFowler@nwpolytech.ca

INSTRUCTOR: Kim Bedard
OFFICE: HEC 353
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment only

PHONE:
E-MAIL: KBedard@nwpolytech.ca

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.

PREREQUISITE(S): None

COREQUISITE(S): Concurrently enrolled in:

- NP1205
- NP1280
- NP1500

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Jarvis, C., Browne, A. J., MacDonald-Jenkins, J., & Luctkar-Flude, M (2019). Physical examination and health assessment (4th Canadian ed.). Elsevier

Jarvis, C., Tarlier, D., Van Pelt, L., Labrecque, M., & Newton, L. (2019). Student laboratory manual for physical examination and health assessment (4th Canadian ed.). Elsevier

REQUIRED ONLINE RESOURCES:

Canadian Council for Practical Nurse Regulators [CCPNR] (2013). Becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse in Canada: Entry Level Competencies. Retrieved from [CCPNR Entry-Level Competencies for LPNs - CLPNA](#)

Council for Practical Nurse Regulators [CCPNR] (2013). Code of ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada. Retrieved from [Code of Ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses - CLPNA](#)

DELIVERY MODE(S): In person Lecture and Labs

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of NP1250 learners will be able to:

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.transferralberta.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:

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%.

Evaluations

Assignment	Weight	Date	Related Course Learning Outcomes
Ticket to Lab	25% (2.5% each)	Week 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,13	1, 4, 5
Midterm Exam	30%	Week 6	1, 4, 5
Laboratory Participation	10%	Graded at the end of course	1-7
Laboratory OSCE	Pass/Fail	Week 13, 14	1-7
Final Exam	35%	During Exam Week	1, 3, 4, 5

*** All evaluation components must be completed to be successful in the course**

1. Ticket to Lab

The purpose of Ticket to Lab is to encourage preparatory reading for each week. Students will be given 10 minutes at the beginning of lab to complete their tickets. Late submissions will not be accepted. They will be a 3-5 question quiz weighted at 2.5% 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. Students can use their textbooks during the quizzes but are expected to complete them independently.

2. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam includes all content, including lectures, required readings, laboratory components, and posted materials, covered up to Week 7. 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. Laboratory Participation

Attendance is recorded for each student in each lab. An email must be submitted to lab instructor 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, in appropriate attire, and participate actively in each lab. Rubric posted on D2L.

4. Laboratory OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination)

Students will perform a head-to-toe 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 two attempts to pass the OSCE. The two attempts include the initial OSCE test and no more than one OSCE re-test. 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 two attempts, the student will be deemed unsuccessful in the course.

5. Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative and includes all content covered throughout the course. 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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

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

Week	Topic	Lab Component	Text Resource
Week 1	Critical Thinking and Evidence- Informed Assessment Assessment Techniques and the Clinical Setting	Introduction to the Laboratory setting and various assessment tools	Chapter 1 Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Week 2	General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs	Assessment Techniques General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs	Chapter 1 Chapter 9 Chapter 10



Week 3	Pain Assessment Nutritional Assessment	General Survey, Measurement, and Vital Signs Pain Assessment Nutritional Assessment	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
Week 4	Skin, Hair, and Nails Head and Neck	Vital Signs Skin, Hair, and Nails Head and Neck	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
Week 5	Musculoskeletal Functional Assessment	Musculoskeletal Functional Assessment Vital Signs	Chapter 24 Chapter 31
Week 6	Midterm Exam		
Week 7	Winter Break		
Week 8	Neurological Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth, and Throat	Vital Signs Neurological Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth, and Throat	Chapter 25 Chapter 15 Chapter 16 Chapter 17
Week 9	Mental Health Assessment	Mental Health Assessment Vitals	Chapter 6
Week 10	Heart and Neck Vessels Peripheral Vascular	Vital Signs Heart and Neck Vessels Peripheral Vascular	Chapter 20 Chapter 21



Week 11	Thorax and Lungs	Thorax and Lungs Vitals Sign	Chapter 19
Week 12	Abdomen Genitourinary	Vital Signs Abdomen Genitourinary	Chapter 22 Chapter 23 Chapter 26 Chapter 27
Week 13	Complete Health Assessment Bedside Assessment Laboratory OSCE	Vital Signs Bedside Assessment Head to Toe OSCE	Chapter 28 Chapter 29
Week 14	Pregnancy Laboratory OSCE	OSCE Repeats as needed Head to Toe Pregnancy Assessment Vitals	Chapter 30
Week 15	Final Exam Review		



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information contained 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:

- NWP Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide, [PN Student 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:

Turnitin Disclosure

As part of NWP's commitment to academic integrity, all written assignments submitted by students will be reviewed using Turnitin software, an online plagiarism detection tool, to verify originality and ensure academic integrity. Turnitin compares student work to a vast database of academic sources, publications, and previously submitted assignments to identify potential instances of plagiarism or improper citation(s). By enrolling in this course, students acknowledge and consent to the use of Turnitin for assignment submissions.