

DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL NURSE AND HEALTH CARE AIDE

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

NP1450 (3): CLINICAL NURSING SKILLS – 3 (2-0-6) 120 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:
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OFFICE HOURS:
By appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Development of skills for practical nursing. Focus is on skill attainment, clinical reasoning, clinical judgement, safe nursing practice, and safe client care.

Note: Available only to Practical Nursing Students.

PREREQUISITE(S): NP1205, NP1250, NP1280, NP1500

COREQUISITE(S): NP1400, NP1410, NP1480, NP1600, NP1700

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Perry, A., G., Potter, P., A., Ostendorf, W. & Cobbett, S., (2023). Canadian Clinical Skills and Techniques. (2nd ed.). Elsevier

DELIVERY MODE(S): In-person Lecture and lab

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of NP1450 learners will be able to:

1. Describe and differentiate critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and clinical judgment in the context of decision-making during client care.
2. Apply the nursing process in simulated clinical settings to develop and refine nursing skills.
3. Adhere to safety protocols and infection control measures to ensure both personal and client safety.
4. Perform clinical nursing skills efficiently and effectively following evidence-based practices.
5. Complete and document client interactions and nursing procedures accurately in client records, adhering to legal and ethical nursing documentation standards.
6. Articulate the roles, scope, and responsibilities of a practical nurse, highlighting collaborative and autonomous aspects of the role.
7. Identify and adhere to policies, procedures, and protocols relevant to clinical skills, ensuring alignment with regulatory and institutional guidelines for safe nursing practice.

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:

The final grade is based on the following assessments, and there are no additional assignments or marks provided in the course. All evaluation components must be completed to pass the course.

Assignment	Weight	Date	Related Course Learning Outcomes
OSCEs	25% (6.25% each)	Weeks 4, 6, 11, 14	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
Ticket to Lab	25%	Weekly (10 total)	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Laboratory Participation	Pass/Fail	Every Lab	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Midterm Exam	25%	Week 8	1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Final Exam	25%	Exam Week	1,2,3,4,5,6,7

1. OSCEs (25% - 6.25% each)

The purpose of the OSCEs is for students to demonstrate various clinical nursing skills. Students will perform these skills as outlined in the textbook and practiced in lab. Students must achieve a minimum passing score of 80% for each OSCE. If a student does not reach this passing score, they will be allowed up to two total attempts to pass, with the score from their initial attempt used for final grading. Failure to receive at least 80% on any of the OSCEs at the end of the course will result in a course failure.

a. Skills to be tested include:

i. Simple Wound Care ii.

Medication Administration

iii. Vascular Access iv.

Urinary Catheterization

2. Ticket to Class (2.5% each class; 25% total course grade)

Questions will be handed out weekly during the start of either lab or lecture to assess required pre-reading knowledge. This exercise aims to encourage students to keep up with class readings, refresh student memory of subject matter and prepare students to engage in class discussion, which is essential to the function of this course. Ticket to Class sheets will be submitted within the class after the allotted

time, following which no further submissions will be allowed. Students must be in attendance and on time each week to receive the sheet and grade. If a student is late and misses the allotted time to work on the questions, they will receive a zero on that ticket to class. Please see the course myClass page for details.

3. Laboratory Participation (Pass/Fail)

Due to the complexity of this course, attendance is highly encouraged. To pass Laboratory participation, students must: arrive prepared and on time, with the appropriate materials, in appropriate attire, and participate actively in each lab. Attendance/Laboratory participation is recorded for each student in each lab according to the posted rubric on D2L. 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. If the student misses 3 or more lab days or fail any of the sections within the rubric for a total of 3 labs, they will be unsuccessful in NP1450. This will result in a course failure. It is recommended all students attend drop-in lab times to ensure competencies and skills are met.

4. Midterm Exam (25%)

The midterm exam includes all content covered up to and including 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.

5. Final Exam (25%)

The final exam includes all content covered from Week 8 to Week 15. 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
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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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topic	Chapters
1	Course Overview Documentation and Informatics Medical Asepsis Sterile Technique	Ch 4 Ch 5 Ch 6
2	Prevention and Care of Skin Breakdown Wound Care Management and Dressings Hot/Cold Therapy	Ch 39 Ch 40 Ch 41
3	Safe Patient Handling, Transfer, and Positioning Exercise, Mobility, and Immobilization devices Support Surfaces and Specialty Beds	Ch 11 Ch 12 Ch 13
4	Personal Hygiene and Bed Making Care of Eye and Ear Simple Dressing OSCE	Ch 18 Ch 19
5	Safe Medication Preparation Nonparenteral Medications Parenteral Medications	Ch 20 Ch 21 Ch 22

6	Vascular Access and Infusion Therapy Midterm Review Med Admin OSCE	Ch 29
7	*READING WEEK – NO CLASSES *	
8	*MIDTERM EXAM*	
9	Airway Management Oxygen Therapy Cardiac Monitoring Closed Chest Drainage Systems	Ch 23 Ch 25 Ch 26 Ch 27
10	Oral Nutrition Enteral Nutrition	Ch 31 Ch 32
11	Blood Administration Parenteral Nutrition IV OSCE	Ch 30 Ch 33
12	Care of a Surgical Patient Specimen Collection Endoscopy	Ch 37 Ch 9 OER
13	Urinary Elimination and Catheterization Bowel Elimination and Gastric Intubation Ostomy Care	Ch 34 Ch 35 Ch 36
14	Review Catheterization OSCE	
15	FINAL EXAM- TBA	

*Subject to change

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: 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/polytechnicleadership/policies-directory>.

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

Additional Information:

To obtain credit in the course ALL assignments, examinations, and quizzes must be completed.