

Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

NP2110 (A3/S1): Practical Nursing Theory III – 3 (3-1-0) 60 hours in 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:	Tia Hudson	PHONE:	780 539 2056
OFFICE:	HEC 314	E-MAIL:	THudson@NWPolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Exploration of legal and ethical implications in practical nursing. Focus is on incorporating nursing values and ethics, the nursing process, and the scope of practice into care of an individual with acute illness.

PREREQUISITE(S): NP1400, NP1410, NP1450, NP1480, NP1600, NP1700

COREQUISITE(S): NP2100, NP2130, NP2150

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Ackley, B.J., Ladwig, G. B., Makic, B. B. F., Martinez-Kratz, M., & Zanotti, M. (2022) Nursing Diagnosis Handbook – An Evidence Based Guide to Planning Care. (13th ed.). Elsevier.

Potter, P., Perry, A. G., Hall, A., Astle, B., & Duggleby, W. D. (2024). Canadian fundamentals of nursing (7th ed.). Elsevier.

American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style (7th ed.).

Tyerman, J., Cobbett, S., Harding, M. M., Kwong, J., Roberts, D., Hagler, D., & Reinisch, C. (2022). *Lewis's medical-surgical nursing in Canada* (5th ed.). Elsevier.

DELIVERY MODE(S): In person. Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars in person.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify and explain legal requirements for consent, confidentiality, documentation and other legal implications in nursing.
2. Apply the Code of Ethics for Licensed Practical Nurses in Canada (2013) to ethical dilemmas encountered in simulated acute illness care settings.
3. Discuss professional and ethical responsibility for practical nurses.
4. Integrate pathophysiology and pharmacology knowledge in care for clients with acute illness or injury.
5. Create detailed, individualized care plans that address the unique needs of clients with acute conditions.
6. Critically reflect on and apply the nursing process to care for clients with acute conditions.
7. Implement Standards of Practice for Licensed Practical Nurses to ensure safe, competent care in nursing.
8. Evaluate and discuss the role of eHealth resources in supporting care for acutely ill clients.

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:

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	Due Date
Attendance & Engagement Logs	25%	Weekly
Midterm Exam	25%	February 11, 2026 – in class
Think Like a Nurse Assignment	20%	March 25, 2026 – in class
Final Exam	30%	During exam week – scheduled by Registrar's Office

1. Attendance & Engagement Logs

Students will complete weekly logs designed to support reflection, accountability, and integration of acute care concepts. Each log includes four short questions that prompt students to identify a key learning point, reflect on how the session connects to their future nursing practice, respond to a weekly professional prompt, and self-assess their participation. Logs must clearly reflect the content covered in class and demonstrate thoughtful engagement. Logs 1–11 are each worth 2%, and log 12 is worth 3%, for a total of 25% of the final course grade. Rubric posted on D2L page.

2. Think Like a Nurse Assignment

This assignment challenges students to apply the nursing process, ethical principles, legal requirements, and clinical reasoning to prioritize care for multiple acute patients. Students will review ten patient scenarios and rank them from highest to lowest priority based on urgency and nursing needs. For the top three priorities, students will provide a detailed analysis including rationale, nursing process steps, ethical/legal considerations, and relevant pathophysiology concepts. This activity develops critical thinking and decision-making skills essential for safe, effective nursing practice. Attendance is mandatory, as this activity will be completed during scheduled class time.

3. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam includes all content covered up to and including Week 6. Question format consists of a variety of styles including, but not limited to, multiple-choice questions, multiple-select questions, and long and short answer questions.

4. Final Exam

Students will be required to complete a comprehensive final examination. This final examination will be scheduled during the exam period and will include all content covered throughout the entire course. This final exam will consist of a variety of question formats, including, but not limited to, multiple-choice questions, multiple-select questions, and long and short answer questions. This exam will evaluate the student's knowledge, problem-solving, and critical thinking abilities. Students are expected to complete the exam individually, and no technologies of any kind will be permitted in the exam.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Required Readings
Week 1	Orientation, Ethics, Ch. 27
Week 2	Lewis et al., Ch. 29, 30 & 31
Week 3	Lewis et al., Ch. 33, 36 & 37
Week 4	Lewis et al., Ch. 38 & 39
Week 5	Lewis et al., Ch. 45 & 46
Week 6	Midterm Exam
Week 7	WINTER BREAK
Week 8	Lewis et al., Ch. 48 & 49
Week 9	Lewis et al., Ch. 55 & 57
Week 10	Lewis et al., Ch. 59, 60 & 63
Week 11	Lewis et al., Ch. 64 & 65
Week 12	Think Like a Nurse Assignment *In Class
Week 13	Lewis et al., Ch. 68 & 69
Week 14	Lewis et al., Ch. 70, 71 & 72
Week 15	Final Exam – Scheduled by Registrar's Office

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](#)

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 evaluations methods 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.

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.