



DEPARTMENT of NURSING EDUCATION & HEALTH STUDIES

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

NS 2250 (A3/B3): Introduction to Acute Care Nursing Practice II

6 (1-0-2-10C) 195 Hours/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	Phone	Email	Office Hours
Nikki Bennett BScN RN	780-539-2890	nbennett@nwpolytech.ca	By Appointment Only
Tonya Campbell BScN ENC(c) RN	780-539-2749	tcampbell@nwpolytech.ca	
Janice King MN RN	780-539-2914	jaking@nwpolytech.ca	
Karlene McKone BScN RN	780-539-2804	Kmckone@nwpolytech.ca	
Renee Normandeau BScN RN	780-539-2835	rnormandeau@nwpolytech.ca	
Jim Wohlgemuth MN RN	780-539-2709	jwohlgemuth@nwpolytech.ca *Clinical Lead*	
Sarah Worton MN IBCLC RN	780-539-2892	sworton@nwpolytech.ca *Course Lead*	

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This practicum in acute care settings further develops knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide safe ethical patient care for adults with episodic and chronic health challenges. Intentional clinical learning activities integrate evidence-informed knowledge from NS2240 and NS2160. The focus is on assessment, clinical reasoning, care planning, and documentation in paper and digital formats.

**PREREQUISITE(S):**

- NS2200 - Foundations of Nursing II (3)
- NS2210 - Introductory to Acute Care Nursing Practice I (6)

COREQUISITE(S):

- NS2160 - Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II (6)
- NS2240 - Foundations in Nursing III (3)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- American Psychological Association. (2019). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC or access to credible online APA resource.
- Ignatavicius, D. (2023). Developing clinical judgement for professional nursing and the next generation NCLEX-RN examination (2nd ed.). Elsevier.
- Jarvis, C. (2024). Physical examination and health assessment (4th ed.). Saunders Canada.
- Lewis, S., Bucher, L., Heitkemper, M., Harding, M., Barry, M., Lok, J., Tyerman, J., & Goldsworthy S. (2023). Medical-surgical nursing in Canada (5th ed.).
- Pagana, K., Pagana, T. Pike-MacDonald, S. (2024). Mosby's Canadian manual of diagnostics and laboratory tests (3rd ed.).
- Perry, P., Potter, P. A., Ostendorf, W. & Cobbett, S. (2023). Canadian clinical nursing skills and techniques (2nd ed.). Toronto, ON: Elsevier Canada.
- Potter, P. A., Perry, A. G., Stockert, P., Hall, A., Astle, B. J., & Duggleby, W. (2023). Canadian fundamentals of nursing (7th ed.). Toronto, ON: Elsevier Mosby.
- Urden, L. D., Stacy, K. M., & Lough, M. E. (2022). Critical care nursing: Diagnosis and management (9th ed.). Elsevier/Mosby.
- Vallerand, A. H., Sanoski, C. A., & In Quiring, C. (2022). Davis' drug guide for nurses. (18th ed.). **OR** access to an eCPS. ***A Canadian drug guide is required. It does not have to be the Davis's Drug guide
- Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing (EAQ) 4th edition Next Gen is available for purchase through the NWP Polytechnic bookstore. This is a required online NCLEX prep resource. The EAQ will assist students with preparing to write the NCLEX-RN registration exam. This resource will provide students with a 36-month online review/prep course to use as they progress through the BScN program.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Attend on-campus, in-person

Absences from any lecture, lab, or clinical will jeopardize overall clinical performance. Absences from clinical may result in the instructor's being unable to evaluate the student's clinical performance, resulting in a failing grade. Failure to pass any section of the CAT will result in failure of the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course the student must be able to:

1. Demonstrate the nursing process in clinical practice when working with clients experiencing episodic and chronic health challenges.
2. Employ relational nursing practice and inquiry skills/abilities when working with clients experiencing episodic and chronic health challenges.
3. Recognize and practice within the current nursing student scope when working with clients with episodic and chronic illness.
4. Identify and implement safety concepts within clinical settings.
5. Detect and analyze ethical issues within 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.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:

Evaluation	% of Final Grade	Due Date	Related Course objectives
Safe Medicate Exam	Pass/Fail	January 9, 2026	1,4
OSCE - Urinary catheter or PICC cap and dressing change	Pass/Fail	February 13 th , 2026	1,2,3
Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT)	Pass/Fail	April 12 th , 2026	1,2,3,4,5
In-Class Case Studies	20% (2x10%)	Dates vary- see MyClass	1,2,3
Reflective Journals	20% (2X10%)	February 22 @ 2359 March 29 th @ 2359	1,2,4,5
Ethics Assignment	30%	March 22 th at 2359	1,2,3,4,5
Lab Exam	30%	During exam week	1.2

Evaluation Overview: See rubrics on MyClass

Safe Medicate: Students must demonstrate proficiency in medication calculation and dosing

prior to administering medication in the clinical setting. Students will write a Safe Medicate Exam and must receive at least 90% to pass. The student will have three attempts total to pass the Safe Medicate Exam. Failure to obtain pass in Safe Medicate will result in a failure in the course.

Modules tested include: FNS Essential Skills, FNS Bodyweight & Body Surface Area Calculations, FNS Injectable Medicines Therapy.

***SafeMedicate will only address the adult population in NS2250

OSCE: OSCEs are pass/fail. To pass NS2250, the student will be required to pass the OSCE. A total of 3 attempts to pass an OSCE are permitted. The 3 attempts include the initial OSCE test and no more than 2 OSCE re-tests. All OSCE retesting must be completed by the end of the course to receive a pass in NS2250. If the student is unsuccessful in passing the OSCEs after 3 attempts, the student will receive a course failure.

Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT): Formative assessment will be completed throughout the course and a midterm meeting to review the CAT will be scheduled. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their practice with their clinical instructor and set goals for the second half of clinical. A summative assessment of nursing practice will be completed by the student and the instructor. This will be accomplished through observation, assessment, and evaluation of the student during direct patient care, through discussions of clinical preparation, pre/post conference, and other clinical activities. See MyClass for CAT template. Students will receive ongoing verbal and/or written feedback from the Clinical Instructor throughout the course to support learning. Feedback may be supplemented with input from peers, the staff of an agency, and the patient. If, at any time, a student is at risk of being unsuccessful in any area of the CAT, they will be placed on a success plan. Students must successfully meet the plan of support by the agreed-upon date. At the final (summative), students must achieve a “Pass” on all areas of the Clinical Assessment Tool to successfully complete NS2250. Failure to pass any section of the CAT results in a failure in the course.

In-Class Case Studies: Students will be provided two case studies based on the concepts covered in the course. The case study will be submitted at the end of each class. Attendance in class is required to receive a grade in this assignment. Absence in the class will result in a 0. Make-up assignments will not be provided.

Participation in Lab & Lecture: By the end of each lab, students are responsible for demonstrating beginning proficiency and competence with each skill offered in this course. Attendance at all labs is mandatory. Lab preparation also requires students to be prepared with appropriate equipment, lab kits, professional behaviour and dress as per the student handbook. For optimal development of proficiency of psychomotor skills, students are encouraged to practice at home or during regularly scheduled



practice labs. Lap drop-in opportunities for practice are available regularly. Please consult the lab coordinators and online link for hours and sign-up information.

No make-up labs are offered for missed sessions. Students must notify the instructor by email before the absence with a valid reason; not all absences are excused. Students with an excused absence or illness must submit a video demonstrating the missed skill, using appropriate supplies, and within one week of the missed lab. This may require attending a drop-in lab. Students must contact the lab coordinators directly by email to ensure there are appropriate supplies, equipment, and lab space to complete the video. Related documentation must also be submitted with the video. Failure to practice the skill in lab or via video will prevent the student from practicing it in clinical and must be reported to the clinical instructor.

Ethics Assignment:

Ethical dilemmas can be challenging. In this assignment, students will explore, analyze, and reflect on an ethical dilemma in nursing practice. This assignment aims to enhance critical thinking, decision-making skills, and the ability to navigate complex moral situations in healthcare.

Students must select an ethical dilemma they experienced during clinical or choose one of the scenarios below and complete the following:

1. Describe the ethical dilemma
 - a. Who were the stakeholders?
 - b. What happened?
2. Identify and describe the ethical principals involved
 - a. [Code of Ethics 2025 - Canadian Nurses Association](#)
3. Explore two different shareholders' emotions and beliefs around the scenario (yourself and another involved).
4. Consider possible courses of action.
5. Based on ethical principles and possible actions, what would you do?
6. Assignment must be submitted as a word document in writing on My Class by March 22, 2026.
7. Your assignment will be presented in post-conference on a clinical day assigned by your clinical instructor.

The paper must be 1000 words in length +/- 10% and must follow APA 7th edition formatting.

If AI is used in any part of the assignment (Ex: Grammarly, ChatGPT), it must be referenced and have an appendix attached. The appendix should include how AI was used, the prompts used, and the output results.

Lab Exam: This cumulative exam will cover content covered throughout each lab. It will contain a variety of question types.

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

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

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:

See calendars on MyClass

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

To PASS NS2250 students must pass all OSCEs, Safe Medicate, and the Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT) listed in the course outline. Students are also required to complete each evaluation component of the course to be successful in NS 2250. Students should refer to the following link for Northwestern Polytechnic policies regarding Student Rights and Responsibilities.

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=69>

Furthermore, all pertinent Academic and Administrative policies can be found at the link below.

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/>

CLINICAL PRACTICE:

Professional responsibility for nursing students includes clinical practice preparation related to evidence-informed practice and patient safety. Preparation includes appropriate understanding, synthesis, and integration of relevant knowledge as well as professional behaviour and dress. Please review student handbook for guidelines regarding appropriate clinical attire. To be adequately prepared for clinical experiences, students will participate in activities outside of their scheduled clinical course hours. Activities can include the following: specific clinical patient preparation, clinical site orientation, Safe Medicate, Connect Care training, and review of textbook and relevant evidence-informed articles. Students who are not adequately prepared to provide safe and competent patient care will not participate in clinical activities and may be asked to leave the clinical site.



Students are required to complete the preparation phase of the weekly Concept of the Week (COW) in order to attend the clinical shift scheduled for the following day. COWs must be submitted to the clinical instructor either electronically or in paper format, as specified by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Failure to complete and submit the preparation phase will result in the student being unable to attend the scheduled clinical shift and will be documented on the Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT).

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

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 90% would receive an adjusted grade of 85% 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. No make-up assignments will be provided. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved. Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. No make-up assignments will be provided. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved. All Assignments, examinations, and quizzes weighted 10% or greater must be completed to obtain credit in the course and permitted to write the final examination if applicable

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 at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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

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.

Additional Information:

****Rubrics are subject to change. Please see NS2250 MyClass page for more information.**