

DEPARTMENT of NURSING EDUCATION & HEALTH STUDIES

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

NS3210 (A3/L1/L3/AC1/AC2/AC3): Advanced Acute Care Nursing Practice I– 6 (3-0-3-24c)

144 Clinical Hours, 180 Total Course Hours for 6 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.

Course Instructor Information

Alison Forest MN, RN, CCCI, CCNE (Course Lead)	Lectures: Mondays 0830 - 1120 Labs: Mondays 1200 – 1450 Clinical: Unit 31 Obstetrics (T/W)	AForest@nwpolytech.ca HEC 371
Karen Oostra MSN, RN	Labs: Mondays 1500 – 1750	KOostra@nwpolytech.ca HEC 362
Navpreet Walker BScN, RN	Clinical: Unit 33 Pediatrics (T/W)	Nwalker@nwpolytech.ca HEC 369
Miranda Retzler BScN, RN	Clinical: Unit 31 Obstetrics (Th/F)	mretzler@nwpolytech.ca HEC 366

*** Please Email for Appointments ***

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This acute care practicum builds on the concepts and intentional clinical learning from NS2210 and NS2250. The focus is on integrating prior learning to move towards providing comprehensive patient and family centered care and socialization to the role of the nurse in an acute care setting. Note: Available only to Nursing students.

PREREQUISITE(S):

NS2160, NS2240 and NS2250

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

EAQ for NCLEX-RN <https://evolve.elsevier.com/cs/store?role=student>

Keenan-Lindsay, L., Sams, C. A., O'Connor, C., Perry, S. E., Lowdermilk, D. L., Cashion, M. C., & Alden, C. R. (2022). *Perry's maternal child nursing care in Canada* (3rd ed.). Elsevier.

Pagana, K., Pagana, T. Pike-MacDonald, S. (2024). Mosby's Canadian manual of diagnostics and laboratory tests (3rd ed.).

Ignatavicius, D. (2023). Developing clinical judgement for professional nursing and NGN readiness. (2nd ed.) Elsevier.

Vallerand, A. H., Sanoski, C. A., & In Quiring, C. (2020). Davis' drug guide for nurses. (17th ed.).

Or

NWP's paid subscription Canadian Pharmacists Association. (2024). *CPS: The Canadian standard for drug and therapeutic content*. <https://www.myrxtx.ca/search>

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

Or see

NWP's Learning Commons: <https://libguides.nwpolytech.ca/apa/whatis>

***All previously required textbooks and resources will be used as reference throughout the program. Please retain your copies as they may be required in future courses.**

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Attend On Campus, In-person (Lecture, Lab & Clinical)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Demonstrate safe, ethical, and collaborative practice with adult, pediatric, and/or neonate patients in acute care settings.
2. Demonstrate interprofessional collaboration competencies.
3. Demonstrate integration of evidence-informed knowledge from previous and concurrent nursing courses in the clinical/lab/simulation setting.
4. Demonstrate clinical reasoning, application of the nursing process and implementation of a plan of care for adult, pediatric, and/or neonate patients in acute care settings.
5. Demonstrate professional and therapeutic communication skills
6. Demonstrate documentation and communication of assessments and nursing care in accordance with nursing practice standards.

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:

Students must receive an overall minimum of C- in the graded components and pass safe medicate (once per semester), as well as achieve a PASS on all portions of the Clinical Assessment Tool to receive credit for NS 3210

Assignment/Course Component	Due dates	Weight	Learning Outcome
1) SafeMedicate	January 6-9, 2026 (during clinical orientation, per instructor communication)	PASS/FAIL	1
2) In-Class Case Studies	During lecture January 12 & February 2, 2026	5% each x 2 (10% of course grade)	1 & 3-6

3) T-GROW Parts A & B	Part A January 18, 2026 @ 2359 Part B – due February 3-13, 2026 (scheduled with clinical instructor)	15% each x 2 (30% of course grade)	1-6 <i>Student dependent</i>
4) Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing (EAQ)	February 1, 2026 @ 2359	10%	1-4
5) Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT)	Midterm CAT January 25, 2026 @ 2359 Final CAT February 11, 2026 @ 2359 (AC2) February 12, 2026 @ 2359 (AC1 & AC3)	PASS/FAIL	1-6
6) Final Exam	February 9, 2026, during lab	25%	1-6
7) Bell-Ringer	February 9, 2026, during lecture	25%	1 & 3-6

1. SafeMedicate Exam (Pass/Fail)

Students must pass all SafeMedicate modules with a minimum of 90% to continue in clinical. This will be done during the first week of the Winter term. Students will have a total of 3 attempts to complete this exam. *An unsuccessful third attempt on any portion of SafeMedicate will result in a failure in the course.* Students cannot give medications in clinical until they have passed SafeMedicate.

2. In-Class Case Studies (10% total)

Two in-class case studies will be completed during lectures 1 and 4 of the course. The first case study will concentrate on obstetrical nursing, and the second will concentrate on pediatric nursing. Students will prepare using the assigned readings and other mandatory preparation materials. Time will be allotted for completion during class. The case studies are open-book, may be done in pairs or trios, and will be handed in at the end of the lecture. Each student must hand in their own answers for grading. To receive credit for this assignment, students must be present in class.

3. T-GROW Parts A & B (30% total)

T-GROW stands for Topic, Goal, Reality, Options and Way forward. This assignment combines initial reflection, goal setting (using SMART goal criteria), action, dissemination, and a final reflection. The purpose is to develop reflective practice that leads to growth and change at the individual student level. The T-GROW assignment will be split into two parts to ensure goal completion. Students will develop their goal in Part A and receive needed feedback from their clinical instructor. In Part B, the student will present their learning to their clinical group and hand in an assignment reflection. See myClass for further details.

4. Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing (10%)

This course component is to be completed on the EAQ platform. Students must achieve intermediate mastery in each assigned topic to receive the full grade. See myClass for further details, including sign-up instructions and the grading guide.

5. Clinical Assessment Tool (Pass/Fail)

Students must receive a **PASS in all components of the CAT (Clinical Assessment Tool) to pass the clinical section of the course. Failure to pass clinical will result in course failure. **

A formative assessment of nursing practice will be completed by the student and instructor midway through the course. This will be accomplished through observation, assessment, and evaluation of the student in various activities. Feedback may be supplemented with input from peers, the staff of the agency, and the clients. The instructor will provide the student with a formative verbal or written evaluation at the midpoint of the course and a summative written final evaluation at the end of the course.

At midterm, students who receive a “Failure, At Risk or below average” in any of the indicators on the Clinical Assessment Tool will develop a Learning Support Plan in collaboration with their Clinical Instructor. Students must successfully meet the requirements of the Learning Support Plan by the agreed upon date. At “final”, students must achieve a “PASS” on all areas of the Clinical Assessment Tool in order to successfully complete NS 3210. ***Attendance in clinical is a requirement, inability to consistently perform at the required competency level on the CAT will constitute a failure of this course.***

6. Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be limited to 90 minutes. The exam is comprehensive, covering material taught across the course, including all readings and mandatory preparation, lecture materials and discussion, handouts, assignments, lab preparation and materials, etc. See myClass for further details.

7. Bell-Ringer Assessment (25%)

This scenario-based exercise focuses on clinical reasoning based on a sound entry-to-practice knowledge base. Each student will be given patient assignments (via scenario) and assessed on situational knowledge and clinical judgment. The assessment will be completed in class, during lab time. More details will be provided on myClass.

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:

** Subject to change. See myClass for up-to-date plans and preparation. **

Schedule	Topic
Week 1 – January 6 - 10, 2026	Clinical orientation and SafeMedicate Ensure readings and prep are completed for the upcoming lecture and lab. **Connect Care training as required
Week 2 – January 11 - 17, 2026	Lecture: Course orientation, pregnancy, labour, delivery & initial postpartum nursing care Lab: Prenatal care, BUBBLEEE assessment, basic newborn assessment, 24-hour care, basic pediatric assessment
Week 3 – January 18 – 24, 2026	Lecture: Acute conditions of pregnancy and postpartum, PPH escape room, maternal mental health & infant feeding



	Lab: labour & delivery SIM, infant feeding, post-operative care, postpartum discharge teaching
Week 4 – January 25 – 31, 2026	Lecture: Acute conditions of infancy & Pediatrics acute conditions. Part A focuses on respiratory and gastrointestinal conditions. Tonsillectomy bell-ringer, pre- and post-op care and communication methods in and out of crisis are explored. Lab: hypoglycemia escape room, DKA station, focused pediatric assessment, dehydration & fluid management, pain assessments and withdrawal scoring.
Week 5 – February 1 – 7, 2026	Lecture: Pediatric acute conditions, part B, focuses on neurological conditions, pediatric mental health, chronic conditions, and palliative care. Lab: Asthma & bronchiolitis Sims
Week 6 – February 8 – 13, 2026	Lecture: Final Exam Lab: Bell-Ringer Assessment

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 BScN 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 Nursing Education & Health Studies Handbook
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eT5ZtjnsFn8oGk9jdu-Rh2eZoRKs-x6-s3Edy0lFQqU/edit?tab=t.0>

Attendance:

- Attendance for all lectures, labs and clinical is expected. Absences will jeopardize overall clinical performance and success in the course and may result in failure.
- Absences from clinical may result in the instructor being unable to effectively evaluate the student's clinical performance resulting in a Fail. Students must pass the CAT to be successful in the course.

Late Assignment Policy:

- ALL assignments, examinations, and quizzes weighted 10% or greater must be completed to obtain credit in the course and be permitted to write the final examination if applicable. 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. All evaluation components of the course must be completed PRIOR TO being permitted to write the final exam

Turnitin:

- 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.

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.