



DEPARTMENT of Nursing Education & Health Studies

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter I 2026

NS3250 (A3; L1; AC1; AC2): Advanced Acute Care Nursing Practice II – 6 (2-0-2) 192 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.

Instructors:	Sherry lee Willett MScN RN CCNE	Nicole Kerschbaumer MN RN
	Lab: Monday 0830-1020 Lecture: Monday 11-1250 Clinical: Unit 23 (Medicine) Tues/Wed 0700-1900	Clinical: Unit 21 (Surgery) Tues/Wed 0700-1900
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

The course provides opportunities for participants to integrate, consolidate, and expand concepts from previous learning to advance their professional nursing practice. Participants have the opportunity to consolidate learning and advance their clinical decision-making in a variety of acute care settings.

PREREQUISITE(S):

NS2160, NS2240, NS2250



REQUIRED MATERIALS: *All textbooks are from previous courses*

Urden, L., Stacy, K. & Lough, Mary E. (2022). Critical Care Nursing – Diagnosis and Management 9th: Elsevier

Lewis, S., Bucher, L., Heitkemper, M., & Harding, (2023). Medical Surgical Nursing in Canada (5th edition). Toronto, ON: Elsevier

Ignatavicius, D. (2021). Developing Clinical Judgment for Professional Nursing and the Next-Generation NCLEX–RN Examination. Elsevier

Recommended Resource: [APA Style: Nursing Student References](#)

All previously required textbooks and resources will be used as references 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 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 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.**



Students must receive an overall minimum of C- in the Graded components, **as well** as a PASS in the clinical portion, to receive credit for NS3250.

Assignments/Course Components	Due dates	Weight	Learning Objectives
EAQ Mastery	February 13, 2026 @ 2359	15%	3, 4
Online Discussion Forum (1)	As specified on MyClass	15%	2, 5
Lab Participation & Preparation	Weekly	10%	3, 4, 5
Post-Clinical Immersion Day Reflection	By 2359 Friday that week	10%	1, 2, 5
Final Exam	February 9, 2026 @ 11-1250 hrs	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Pre-Clinical Judgment Paper	January 12, 2026 @ 2359	15%	3, 4
Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT)	Midterm Week 3 Final Week 6	Formative PASS/FAIL	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

*** Note: SafeMedicate Pass is required – if unsuccessful after the third attempt, the student is unable to progress to clinical.**

Clinical (Pass/Fail)

1. Clinical Assessment Tool- CAT

** Students must receive a **PASS** in all sections of the CAT (Clinical Assessment Tool) to pass the clinical section of the course*

A formative assessment of nursing practice will be completed informally in discussion with the instructor midway through the course. This will be accomplished through the student's observation, assessment, and evaluation of 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. *The final evaluation CAT must first be submitted by the student with their assessment, and then the instructor will provide written feedback in response to the submission.* 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 "the final," students must achieve a "PASS" in all areas of the Clinical Assessment Tool to successfully complete NS3250.

2. Post Conferences:

At the end of the clinical day, groups will meet in the HEC in a private room for the mandatory conclusion of the clinical shift. This is a time for students to reflect and analyze the events of the day. Post-clinical conferences are confidential discussions in which students can share experiences, thoughts and emotions from the shift. This is an opportunity for instructors to clarify any questions or issues that have come up throughout the day.

3. Pre-Clinical Judgment Paper (Graded):

This paper prepares students for Advanced Acute Care by applying the NCLEX Clinical Judgment Measurement Model (CJMM) and priority-setting frameworks (ABCs, safety, urgency, and anticipated complications) to three complex medical-surgical cases. Students will analyze data, identify priorities, justify nursing actions, and demonstrate clinical reasoning supported by scholarly literature. Paper requirements: 4-5 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, APA 7th edition formatting using a minimum of 4 scholarly, peer-reviewed sources within the last five years. The rubric and further instructions are available on MyClass.

4. Clinical Immersion Days (Graded):

There are three 8-hour Clinical Immersion Days to be observed outside of scheduled clinical days, scheduled on Thursdays. These are considered part of clinical hours, and attendance is mandatory. **Missed Clinical Immersion Days will not be rescheduled, and a zero will be received for the reflection.** Reflection submission is required by 2359 on the Friday immediately following your Clinical Immersion Day. The submission should be a maximum of two (2) pages, double-spaced, with appropriate APA font and format (minimum of 2 references). The rubric and further instructions are available on MyClass.

Lecture (Graded)

1. EAQ Mastery:

The EAQ is an assessment tool that contains exam-style questions and is used to help students both succeed in their courses and study effectively for the NCLEX. The goal is to achieve mastery through practice. In 3rd year, the goal is to achieve a Mastery Level of 2 "Intermediate". Students will be given a course code posted on MyClass. Log onto Evolve and open the course titled Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing: EAQ for NCLEX-RN Exam (36 Month) (eCommerce Version), 4th Edition; no marks will be allocated for students not working within this course.

To open the assignments, click on Assignments in the course's left-hand column. There are four assignments that you need to be working on that have



Cardiovascular System, Integumentary System, Neurological System, and Immunology as their first name in the title of the assignment.

Students are expected to achieve a Mastery Level of **Intermediate** in each assignment posted for the 4 topics. Students need to achieve a Mastery Level of Intermediate in all 4 assignments to obtain full marks.

**Note that answering questions correctly will facilitate levelling up more quickly. You can log in as much as you like before the due date.*

Requirements for marks towards the final EAQ grade are as follows:

0 Marks	Did not attempt any questions or attempted less than 25 questions in <u>each</u> topic (4 topics)
1 Marks	Attempted minimum of 25 questions in <u>each</u> topic (4 topics), did not reach Mastery in any
2 Marks	Attempted minimum of 25 questions in <u>each</u> topic (4 topics) and achieved Mastery level 'Intermediate' in <u>1</u> of the topics
3 Marks	Attempted minimum of 25 questions in <u>each</u> topic (4 topics) and achieved Mastery level 'Intermediate' in <u>2</u> of the topics
4 Marks	Attempted minimum of 25 questions in <u>each</u> topic (4 topics) and achieved Mastery level 'Intermediate' in <u>3</u> of the topics
5 Marks (Full Marks)	Attempted minimum of 25 questions in <u>each</u> topic (4 topics) and achieved Mastery level 'Intermediate' in <u>4</u> of the topics

Students are encouraged to work on EAQ questions throughout the term. **No marks will be awarded after the due date.** Partial marks will not be considered for reaching a mastery level of less than **Intermediate** in the assignments posted.

2. Final Exam

The final exam for this course will focus on learning from labs, readings, and lecture content. The exam will be completed online during class lecture time on **February 9th, 2026**. You will be provided with an NWP laptop to complete the exam. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, select all that apply, matching, ordering, and short answer NGN-style questions.

Lab (Graded)

1. Lab Participation & Preparation:

Attendance in all lab classes is expected. Students will come prepared as they would to clinical and as per the student handbook. Participation in lab skills and simulation activities is strongly encouraged. Student performance in simulation is not evaluated. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one simulation in the role of active participant. All students will be evaluated for their participation in pre-

briefing activities and how they conduct themselves during the simulation implementation and debriefing. If a student is not in attendance, participation marks will not be assigned for that lab day. Demonstration of the missed lab skill is required to be coordinated with your lab instructor. If a student does not come to the lab with the preparation material completed and ready to complete the demonstration or simulation in the lab, the student will be asked to leave.

2. Online Discussion Forum:

Students will participate in the online forum. The purpose of this forum is to provide an opportunity for discussion and to deepen learning about issues in healthcare. The forum will be available for 10 days and then closed. **No late postings are permitted.** Instructions for the forum will be provided on the MyClass page with an initial post consisting of 150 – 500 words and a minimum of 2 references. Students are encouraged to follow the instructions by posting an initial post by the specified Monday date. Students are encouraged to deepen the discussion by responding to at least 2 of their peers' posts and then continuing with the discussion by the forum's Saturday closing date. A rubric is available on the MyClass page.

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	Lecture	Lab	Clinical
Week 1 Jan 5 - 9	No lecture	No lab	As per schedule



Week 2 Jan 12 - 16	Alterations in Nutrition & Gas Exchange	Skill: TPN & Simulation Orientation	As per schedule
Week 3 Jan 19 - 23	Peri/Post Operative Care	Skill: Tracheostomy & Chest Tube Care	As per schedule
Week 4 Jan 26 - 30	Alterations in Perfusion	Simulation: Post Operative Sepsis/Bleed	As per schedule
Week 5 Feb 2 - 6	Alterations in Elimination	Simulation: Cardiac Perfusion	As per schedule
Week 6 Feb 9 - 13	Final Exam	Simulation: Trauma	As per schedule

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](#)
- [NWP Academic & Administrative Policies](#)
- [NWP Students Rights & Responsibilities Policy](#)

Attendance:

Attendance for all lectures, labs and clinicals is expected. Absences will jeopardize overall clinical performance and success in the course and may result in a Failure. Absence from clinicals may result in the instructor being unable to effectively evaluate the student's clinical performance, resulting in a fail. Students must pass the CAT for success 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 the 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 as 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.

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.

Plagiarism:

The use of close imitation of language, paintings, films, prototypes and ideas of another author and representation of them as one's own original work. The most common forms of plagiarism are copying or paraphrasing another author's work without proper acknowledgement, using the ideas or lines of reasoning of another author's work without appropriate acknowledgement, submitting work to which someone else has made substantial improvements to the content, and submitting the same work for multiple courses without approval. Plagiarism can be judged to have occurred if the instructor has both the submitted material and the original source that was copied or if the student is unable to explain the terminology or ideas of a submission. **Please note:** 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. *All use without appropriate citation/reference is considered plagiarism.*

Additional Information: