

DEPARTMENT of NURSING EDUCATION & HEALTH STUDIES

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

NS2210: Introduction to Acute Care Nursing Practice I

6 (1-0-2-10C) 185 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.

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This practicum in acute care settings develops beginning 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 NS2200 and NS2160. The focus is on assessment, clinical reasoning, care planning, and documentation in paper and digital formats. Note: Available only to Nursing students.

PREREQUISITE(S): NS1160, NS1240, NS1250

COREQUISITE(S): NS2160, NS2200

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE 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. (2025). 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 Canadian Edition). 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.

Vallerand, A. H., Sanoski, C. A., & In Quiring, C. (2024). Davis' drug guide for nurses. (19th ed.). **OR** access to an **eCPS**.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture, Lab & Clinical

On-campus (face-to-face) Students must attend class on campus or another specified site.

Attendance at all lectures, labs, and clinical is expected. Students are responsible to consult with the lab instructor to make up for missed labs.

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 Fail. Failure to pass any section of the CAT results in a failure in the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Demonstrate the development and application of clinical reasoning within safe and ethical nursing practice.
2. Develop and integrate relational nursing practice and inquiry skills/abilities when working with clients.
3. Demonstrate the ability to perform selected health assessment skills with adult clients experiencing episodic and chronic illnesses.
4. Demonstrate the ability to integrate evidence-informed knowledge from NS2200 and NS2160 in the clinical setting.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the nursing process and the ability to develop and implement care plans for adult clients experiencing episodic and chronic illnesses.
6. Demonstrate the ability to document nursing care, assessments, interventions, and evaluations in accordance with nursing practice standards.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** 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	Value	Date	Associated Course Objectives
OSCE #1: Medication Administration	Pass/Fail	In clinical: beginning week of Oct. 19th	1, 3, & 4
Safe Medicate Modules: - FNS Essential Skills (6 modules) - FNS Bodyweight & Body Surface Area Calculations	Pass/Fail (Maximum of 3 attempts) (Must achieve 90% to pass)	In lab: Week of October 5 th	1, 3, & 4
COW's X 3 (8% each)	24%	Roving grade assigned for 3 random COW's to be determined by the clinical faculty group.	ALL
Reflection X 2 (10% each) Written component = 8% Presentation = 2%	20%	In post clinical: #1 due: Week of Oct. 4 th '26 #2 due: Week of Nov.1 st '26	2, 4, & 5
Lab pre-quizzes	30%	The night before labs at 23:59	1 & 2
Concept Map	26%	In class: A2: Oct. 19 th , 2026 B2: Oct. 22 nd , 2026	1 & 4
Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT)	Pass/Fail	November 22 nd at 2359	ALL

Failure to pass any section of the CAT results in a failure in the course.

Please see MyClass for assignment details.



GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities 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:

Please see Course Calendar.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

To **PASS** NS2210, students must pass all Pass/Fail components which are: OSCEs, Safe Medicate, and their Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT). Students must also complete all graded elements and achieve a minimum overall average of 60% (C-).

CLINICAL PRACTICE Preparation:

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.

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, patient health record review, 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 sent home by their clinical instructor.

Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT):

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.

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. At any time that a student is at risk of being unsuccessful in any area of the CAT, the student may be placed on a learning plan. Students must successfully meet the Learning Support Plan 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 NS2210.

Lab Attendance and Participation:

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 part of required clinical preparation and 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 extra practice may be available. 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. 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. 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.

Weekly lab pre-quizzes must be completed prior to coming to lab.

Concept Map Assignment:

This assignment will be completed during lecture time. Please refer to MyClass for further information.

Clinical Reflection

Each student will prepare and share with their peers and instructor a reflection describing an event/situation they experienced during clinical that had an impact on them. See MyClass for more details.

OSCEs:

OSCEs to be tested will be chosen by the lab, lecture, and clinical instructors. OSCEs are pass/fail. To pass NS2210, the student will be required to pass the OSCEs. 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 NS2210. If the student is unsuccessful in passing the OSCEs after 3 attempts, the student will be considered unsuccessful in the course.

Lab Lecture Attendance and Participation:

Lab lectures are interactive classes designed to delve into the application of the theory and skills learned over the past week. Attendance at all Lab Lectures is required.

Clinical Simulation:

Four (4) hours of simulation are included in this course. The simulation will be scheduled during regular clinical hours but will take place in the simulation lab. Although the SIM is not assigned a grade, it is a component of your CAT, and attendance is mandatory. Please see course calendar for specific date and time of simulation.

Late Assignment Policy:

To obtain credit in the course 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. Students are expected to complete assignments on time, and 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 zero (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.