

DEPARTMENT of NURSING EDUCATION & HEALTH STUDIES

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

NS3210 (A3/L1/AC1/AC2): 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

Kaila Sinclair BScN, RN	Clinical: Unit 33 Pediatrics AC2, BC2	KSinclair@nwpolytech.ca HEC 336
Miranda Retzler BScN, RN	Clinical: Unit 31 Maternity AC1, BC1	MRetzler@nwpolytech.ca HEC 366
Sarah Worton MN, RN, IBCLC (Course Lead)	Lab & Lecture Mondays Clinical: Unit 31 Maternity BC3	SWorton@nwpolytech.ca HEC 357

*** 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.myrx.tx.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) In-Class Case Studies	September 14 th in class October 5 th in class	10% each x 2 (20% of course grade)	1 & 3-6
2) Clinical Judgment Assignment	Part A: October 6 th in post-conference Part B: October 7 th in post-conference	30%	1,3,& 4
3) Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT)	Midterm CAT September 27 nd at 2359 Final CAT October 19 th at 2359	PASS/FAIL	1-6
4) Bell-Ringer	October 19 th in lab	25%	1 & 3-6
5) Final Exam	October 19 in class	25%	1-6
6) Safe Medicate	September 2 Rewrites TBD by instructor	Pass/Fail	



1. In-Class Case Studies (20% 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, 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.

2. Critical Thinking Exercise Part A and B (30% total)

The critical thinking exercise will be divided into two parts. Part A will be completed during post-conference on October 6th and part B will be completed October 7th. Students will be required to utilize the NCSBN clinical judgment model and apply it to a provided patient scenario. The scenario will be based on content from either pediatrics or obstetrics. All required resources will be provided. Students must be present in person to receive marks for the assignment.

3. 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.***

4. 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. See MyClass for further details.

5. Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be completed during the lecture time on October 19th. 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. Students will be read a series of questions related to course content and must provide thorough evidence-based answers. See MyClass for further details.

6. Safe Medicate (Pass/Fail)

Students are required to complete a SafeMedicate exam that covers FNS Essential Skills, FNS Bodyweight & Body Surface Area, and Injectable Medicines Therapy during the first week of the course. The exam will cover both adult and child medication administration. Students are permitted 3 three attempts total to achieve a 90%. Students may not provide medications in clinical until they successfully pass the SafeMedicate exam. If the student is unsuccessful after three attempts, they will not be permitted to advance to clinical.

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 – September 14, 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 2 – September 21, 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 3 – September 28, 2026	Lecture: Acute conditions of infancy including hyperbilirubinemia, feeding challenges, pediatric med admin virtual sim Lab: pediatric assessment triangle and pediatric pain assessments, withdrawal scoring, basic fluid calculations, bolus vs maintenance, hypoglycemia escape room, DKA, fluid replacement in context, Broselow Tape, pediatric acute conditions part A focuses on respiratory and gastrointestinal conditions. Tonsillectomy bell-ringer, and communication methods in and out of crisis are explored.
Week 4 – October 5, 2026	Lecture: Pediatric acute conditions, part B, focuses on neurological conditions, pediatric mental health, chronic conditions, and palliative care. Lab: Asthma & bronchiolitis Sims
Week 5 – October 12, 2026 Thanksgiving	No lab/lecture
Week 6 – October 19, 2026	Lecture/Lab: Bell-Ringer Assessment and Final Verbal Exam

Content and dates are subject to change.

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.