



DEPARTMENT of Nursing Education & Health Studies

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 1 2026

NS3250 (A2; L1, L2; AC1, AC2, AC3): 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:	Julie Reeme MN RN, ENC (C)	Sherry lee Willett MScN RN CCNE, CCSNE	Nicole Kerschbaumer MN RN
	<u>Lecture:</u> Mondays 1500 <u>Clinical:</u> Unit 21 (Surgery)	<u>Lab:</u> Mondays 1300 <u>Clinical:</u> Unit 23 (Medicine)	<u>Lab:</u> Mondays 1100 <u>Clinical:</u> Unit 21 (Surgery)
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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. (2025). Critical Care Nursing – Diagnosis and Management 10th: Elsevier

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

Ignatavicius, D. (2025). Developing Clinical Judgment for Professional Nursing and the Next-Generation NCLEX–RN Examination (2nd Edition). Elsevier

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.**

EVALUATIONS:

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
Tickets to Lab	Weekly in Lab	20%	3, 4, 5
Clinical Immersion Day Reflection	Oct 9 th , 2026	20%	1, 2, 5
In Class Discussion Exercise	Will be assigned during class	5%	1, 4,5
Oral Exercise	Midterm – Week 4	20%	3, 4
Final Exam	Oct 19 th , 2026 @ 1500–1650 hrs	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Clinical Assessment Tool (CAT)	Midterm Week 4 Final Week 8	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.

Lecture (Graded)

Course lecture attendance is required, and accountability for class attendance is a professional responsibility as per the BScN Student Handbook.

1. Clinical Immersion Day Reflection:

There are three 8-hour Clinical Immersion Days to be observed outside of scheduled clinical days, scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays. These are considered part of clinical hours, and attendance is mandatory. **Missed Clinical Immersion Days will not be rescheduled.** A Reflection submission is required by Oct 9th, 2026. The submission should be a maximum of four (4) pages, double-spaced. Further instructions are available on MyClass.

2. In Class Discussion Exercise:

This will take place in the last 15-20 minutes of lecture. The date will be announced on the day of and students must be in attendance to participate. You will be provided with a brief prompt and respond to it via written response in class. The information will be based on course content and nursing practice standards (ie. professionalism, communication, ethics).

3. Oral Exercise:

The Oral Exercise is a scenario-based assessment designed to evaluate students' integration of medical-surgical knowledge, clinical reasoning, and professional communication. Students will respond verbally to an acute care patient scenario, including interpretation of assessment findings and laboratory results, prioritization of nursing care, and justification of nursing interventions. The exercise also assesses therapeutic communication, ethical and safety considerations, and alignment with professional nursing standards appropriate to third-year practice.

4. 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 **Oct 19th, 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.

5. EAQ Mastery (Ungraded):

The EAQ is an assessment tool that includes exam-style questions and helps 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 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 Months) (eCommerce Version), 4th Edition. To open the assignments, click on Assignments in the course's left-hand column. There are four assignments provided to work on: Cardiovascular System, Integumentary System, Neurological System, and Immunology. Students are encouraged to work on EAQ questions throughout the term as self-preparation and review of material.

Lab (Graded)

1. Tickets to Lab:

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. 10 questions will be provided at the beginning of each lab time to assess preparation for lab and sim skills. If a student is not in attendance, marks will not be assigned for that lab day as the Ticket to Lab will not be reissued. Demonstration of the missed lab skill is required by video submission to your lab instructor within 7 days. There are no makeup opportunities for missed simulation labs. If a student does not come to the lab with the lab kit and preparation material completed, ready to complete the demonstration or simulation in the lab, the student will be asked to leave.

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 Sept 2-6	No lecture	No lab	Orientation
Week 2 Sept 7-11	No lecture	No lab	As per schedule
Week 3 Sept 14-18	Alterations in Nutrition Alterations in Gas Exchange	Skill: TPN & Simulation Orientation	As per schedule
Week 4 Sept 21-25	Peri/Post Operative Care	Skill: Tracheostomy Care Chest Tube Care	As per schedule
Week 5 Sept 28-Oct 2	Alterations in Perfusion	Simulation: Post Operative Sepsis/Bleed	As per schedule
Week 6 Oct 5-9	Alterations in Elimination	Simulation: Cardiac Perfusion	As per schedule
Week 7 Oct 12-16	No lecture	No lab	As per schedule
Week 8 Oct 19-23	Final Exam	Simulation: Trauma	No Clinical

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 Handbook](#)
- [NWP Academic & Administrative Policies](#)
- [NWP Student 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.

Attendance in lecture is required to sit the final exam, in accordance with the BScN Student Handbook. 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.*