



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

Faculty of *NURSING*



ACCELERATED PROGRAM
PASSPORT

upei.ca/nursing

WELCOME TO THE UPEI FACULTY OF NURSING

Now that you have been accepted into the Accelerated Nursing Program, you will be starting a new and exciting stage in your life. Your years in the nursing program will be significant and memorable—a time for both personal and professional development. You will meet new friends, expand your knowledge and skills, and make a difference for individuals, families, and communities. We are pleased that you have decided to come to UPEI and hope that your years at the Faculty of Nursing will be challenging, informative, and enjoyable.

This booklet is your passport to the nursing program and will guide you as you prepare to begin classes in January. The passport includes the following:

- a list of responsibilities/requirements that you must meet in order to complete criteria for admission
- some basic information about the Accelerated Nursing Program, and
- an overview of what you can expect after your admission is finalized.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information requested by the Faculty of Nursing will be used solely for administrative purposes, for program planning, and for arranging clinical experiences. As stated in the University calendar, "UPEI is committed to taking every reasonable step to protect the confidentiality of the information contained in the records of students." If you have any concerns/questions about the collection or use of personal information, please contact the Dean of Nursing.

REQUIREMENTS OF ACCEPTANCE:

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)/FIRST AID/CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK/OUTSTANDING COURSE PREREQUISITES

You are required to successfully complete a **CPR (Health Care Professional Level)** course and a **Standard First Aid** course. This must be done *within the 12 months prior to the admission to the Faculty of Nursing and submitted to the Administrative Assistant at the UPEI Faculty of Nursing*. You will not be permitted to enter clinical practice until you have submitted proof of certification in CPR (HCP Level) and Standard First Aid.

You are also required to obtain a certified **Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check** from your "home-town" law enforcement agency (RCMP). This must be obtained within 3 months of the date of submission (NOTE: You should be aware it may take several weeks to process a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check). Most law enforcement agencies require you to bring 2 pieces of photocopied identification (one being a picture ID). **You should call your local law enforcement agency first to ensure you have the proper paperwork before going. You are responsible for the costs. The Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check must be done prior to admission to the Faculty of Nursing and submitted to the Administrative Assistant at the UPEI Faculty of Nursing.** You will not be permitted to enter clinical practice until you have submitted proof of a certified Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check.

Some students may have to take additional prerequisite courses prior to starting the Accelerated Nursing Program in January. Specific courses will be identified by the Registrar's Office at the time when you receive your acceptance letter into the program. If you choose to take these prerequisite courses at UPEI, your transcripts will be automatically forwarded to the Registrar's Office upon completion of the course. If you choose to take any outstanding prerequisite courses at another university, proof of successful completion of these courses, in the form of an official transcript, must be received by the Registrar's Office prior to the first day of the winter semester; otherwise, you will not be permitted to attend classes and may be dismissed from the program. Completion of these courses is a condition of your acceptance into the Accelerated Nursing Program.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER ADMISSION

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR TIME

Time management is an important issue for nursing students. Accelerated Nursing students usually find their schedules to be very busy and challenging. In addition to the time you spend in class lectures (approximately 15 hours per week for full-time students), you must also allocate time each week for:

- Lab time for your nursing and science courses varies as you progress throughout the program
- Nursing tutorial (time varies depending on clinical course)
- Clinical preparation (time varies depending on clinical course)
- Clinical experience (a minimum of 1,650 clinical practice hours are required over the 23 months of the Accelerated Nursing Program; your clinical time increases with each clinical course taken in the program.)
- And of course, independent study time to complete readings, course and clinical assignments and prepare for exams

Due to the intensity and pace of the Accelerated Nursing Program, students are advised not to work while enrolled in the program.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS?

The Webster Centre for Teaching and Learning is located in Student Affairs at the W.A. Murphy Student Centre and provides support and numerous resources to help students achieve academic success. The Webster Centre offers support for effective reading, effective note taking, time management skills, and preparing for exams. Additional resources/services that available on campus for students and are included as part of your fees include the W.A. Murphy Student Centre, the UPEI Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre, CARI Complex, and Robertson Library.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UPEI FACULTY OF NURSING

Are there student fees I have to pay in addition to my tuition?

Accelerated students are registered as full-time students for twenty-three continuous months. As such, fees are assessed for each semester of the program: winter, spring, summer, and fall. For a full list of tuition costs and additional costs, please see the UPEI Accounting Office web page: upei.ca/accounting/upei-fees. Please contact Accounting at (902) 566-0534 with any questions you might have regarding these costs.

Is there parking available at UPEI?

Yes, there is parking available. You are responsible for purchasing your parking permit from the UPEI Accounting Office. These parking passes are generally sold in fall semester and therefore may be limited in availability when you begin the program in January. For full information on parking at UPEI, visit the UPEI Facilities management web page: upei.ca/facilities/parking.

Where are the clinical sites and how do I get there?

You will be required to travel to several clinical placements across Prince Edward Island throughout the program. For a full overview of possible sites for clinical experiences, go to the UPEI Faculty of Nursing web page: nursing.upei.ca/files/nursing/clinicalplacements_4yearprogram.pdf. You are responsible for arranging transportation to the clinical site and for the cost of your travel to the clinical sites. One way to minimize the cost of travel is to carpool with other nursing students.

Do I need to purchase uniforms and equipment?

Throughout the Accelerated Nursing program you will be going to acute care and community placements. For some of the community placements, you will be expected to wear dress pants or a skirt, a shirt or blouse, and shoes that maintain a professional image. You will be going to your first community placement in NURS1030 beginning in January.

You will not need to purchase nursing uniforms until February in the first semester of the program. You will need to have a nursing uniform and a pair of white shoes for NURS1030. For a detailed description of our dress code, see our Nursing Student Policy Manual on the Faculty of Nursing web page: files.upei.ca/nursing/school_of_nursing_student_manual.pdf.

I can't wait to buy my first stethoscope. When should I do this?

If you have the ability to purchase a stethoscope before enrollment, you may do that. This will guarantee you the opportunity to use your own stethoscope in the Learning Resource Center.

How do I find out what books to buy?

You will be informed of the books that you will need to purchase on your first day of class. The books can be purchased at the UPEI Bookstore, which is located in the W.A. Murphy Student Centre. In addition, students will be required to purchase an NCLEX-RN Preparation Package. This is a one-time purchase in the first year of your program. More information will be provided in January.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

What do we do in the Learning Resource Centre? Is there extra time for practice?

You will come to the Learning Resource Centre every week to practice your newly learned skills on the mannequins. You can wear your street clothing when you come to lab.

You can also come to the lab for extra practice time. All you need to do is speak with the Learning Resource Centre staff to make the arrangements for additional lab time outside of your regularly scheduled lab time.

I heard math is important in nursing. Is that true?

Yes, math is very important in Nursing and is used in the calculation of safe medication dosages and intravenous therapy. As a way to ensure students are competent in basic math skills required for medication administration, you will have five math exams throughout the program. Students must achieve 85% or greater to pass each math competency exam. **Should a student fail more than two math competency exams throughout the program, this may be cause for dismissal from the program.** Please read the UPEI Faculty of Nursing Math Competency Policy in the student manual: files.upei.ca/nursing/school_of_nursing_student_manual.pdf

What is the passing grade for Nursing?

All nursing courses begin with the letter "N" (for example, NURS1030, NURS2230X, etc.) and have a passing grade of 60%. All non-nursing courses have a passing grade of 50%.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPEI FACULTY OF NURSING

Faculty of Nursing: tel: (902) 566-0733; fax: (902) 566-0777

Dean's administrative assistant: (902) 566-0768

Clinical and International coordinator: (902) 894-2871

Student Health Centre: (902) 566-0616

UPEI Bookstore: (902) 566-0625

Registrar's Office: (902) 566-0439



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