Welcome to Sheridan’s Practical Nursing Program!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Faculty of Applied Health and Community Studies at Sheridan College’s Davis Campus. We are so pleased that you have selected Sheridan’s Practical Nursing program to pursue your nursing career. You have chosen to enter one of Ontario’s top-ranking Practical Nursing programs, with a history of academic excellence and student success. Sheridan’s Practical Nursing program proudly holds a Level 1 accreditation with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), the highest rank given to Ontario Colleges in the field of nursing education. We have a history of student success on the CPNRE (Canadian Practical Nursing Registration Examination), with between 92 and 98% of all graduates passing the exam successfully.

The Practical Nursing program at Sheridan is dedicated to providing our learners with a challenging yet supportive learning experience, and we are committed to fostering an environment where, with hard work and dedication, success can be achieved. Our program focuses on a shared student-faculty learning approach. This means that our learners must be self-motivated and accountable in meeting the various demands of the program. It is then the commitment of the faculty to assist and support our learners as they work to meet the learning outcomes of the program.

Over and above the learning outcomes built into the curriculum here at Sheridan, Practical Nursing students are expected to meet the Requisite Skills and Abilities as set forth by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). The details description of these requirements can be found using the following link: https://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/reg/41078-skillabilities-4pager-final.pdf

Specifically, new students to our program should be aware of the main categories of skill and competency requirements and the application of these to a Practical Nursing student’s roles and responsibilities for the duration of their studies. Full details and more examples of these important requirements can be found in the above linked document.

1. **Cognitive Requirements**
   For example, the student perceives when situations require further inquiry; performs arithmetic skills to safely administer medication; and can make sense of complex information.

2. **Communication Requirements**
   For example, the student accurately obtains and records client information in the chart; and communicates clearly with other health care providers.
3. **Interpersonal Requirements**  
For example, the student identifies that others have needs and perspectives that might be different from his/her own.

4. **Behavioral Requirements**  
For example, the student responds appropriately in conflict situations; remains calm in stressful situations; and recognizes priorities in the face of multiple demands.

5. **Psycho-Motor Requirements**  
For example, the student can help lift, turn and/or transfer clients; climb stairs for a home care visit; remove sutures and staples; and give injections.

6. **Sensory Requirements**  
For example, the student can see and read lines of demarcation and numbers on a syringe; can hear verbal communication or sounds of a client in distress; can feel a client’s pulse; and can detect an odor.

7. **Environment Requirements**  
For example, the student can tolerate unpleasant odors; can function in the presence of unavoidable environmental factors such as noise, distractions and the unpredictable behavior of others.

Sheridan’s Practical Nursing program offers students **Clinical Placement** opportunities in each of the 4 semesters of study. It is in these environments that our learners get first-hand knowledge and hands-on skill development with real patient populations. Because of the nature of these placements, whereby Sheridan students are working closely with a vulnerable population in both acute and chronic health care settings, there are very clear requirements in place to ensure the health and safety of this client population.

Sheridan Practical Nursing students will not be permitted to enter the clinical environment without strict adherence to the following requirements:

◊ **Student Health Records**  
Students will receive a **Health Records Information Package** within the first week of the program that must be completed at least one month prior to commencing clinical placement in week 9.

◊ **Hepatitis B Vaccination**  
Hep B vaccination is mandatory for all students enrolled in the Practical Nursing program. The vaccine consists of a series of 3 injections, the first 2 of which must be received prior to beginning the program.

◊ **Varicella and Influenza Vaccinations**  
Students must have documentation that they have had chicken pox (as a disease), or have been given the chicken pox vaccine as a child. If the antibody titre is not high enough, the chicken pox vaccine must be administered prior to beginning the program. Student must have the influenza vaccination annually in order to be placed in a clinical setting.
◊ **TB Test**  
A current, 2-step tuberculosis test is required for all students. A certificate noting this must be shown to the Health Centre and will be recorded in the Health Centre documentation.

◊ **Health Insurance Coverage**  
Students must have Health Insurance coverage and have his/her own Ontario Health Card. All full-time students are covered under Sun Life Insurance.

◊ **Mask Fit Testing**  
Prior to starting any clinical placement, students must have a valid *mask fit card* which indicates the appropriate mask that seals securely to their face. This is a mandatory test that takes place in the first term course, HEAL13672: Lab 1.

◊ **Criminal Reference Check for the Vulnerable Population**  
Legislation requires that criminal reference checks be completed for any student working with children or vulnerable adult populations. This applies to all clinical agencies that students are placed in for the duration of the program. Students will be required to produce a reference check that is *valid within 6 months* of entering the clinical placement.

◊ **Standard First Aid and Basic Life Support (CPR)**  
All students must have a current *Standard First Aid and Basic Life Support (CPR) Level C* certification prior to starting any clinical placement.

**NOTE:** Failure to comply with any one of these clinical requirements will result in the inability to begin clinical placements. The impact of this is an unsuccessful grade in the associated course, and ultimately results in the need to repeat the entire term again.

Further details about each of these requirements will be addressed in class and in the Clinical Orientation that all term 1 students will take part in during their first weeks in the program. For current questions related to these details, please contact our Clinical Coordinator, Lisa Hughes at lisa.hughes@sheridancollege.ca.

Once again, a very warm WELCOME to Sheridan’s Practical Nursing program. On behalf of the Faculty of Applied Health and Community Studies, I wish you the greatest success as you begin this exiting journey.

Sincerely,

![Signature]

Sherri Steele, PhD  
Associate Dean, School of Applied Health  
Faculty of Applied Health and Community Studies
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References:
- The CanadianPNexamprepguide(5thEd.)Availableonline. http://www.cpnre.ca/prepguide_Purchase_e.asp