

**OPEN STUDIES
TO PRACTICAL NURSE**
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY, WELLNESS AND HEALTH

UPDATED: APRIL 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the [Academic Calendar](#) for admission requirements.
- Open Studies provides you with an opportunity to:
 - Explore topics of interest to help you determine which program is right for you.
 - Start taking courses that count towards another program, prior to being admitted to your goal program (limited selection for Health Science programs)
 - Take upgrading courses, if needed, in addition to post-secondary level courses.
 - Take any course for which you have the pre-requisites, and which are not restricted to a specific program.
- Check the admission requirements for your goal program in the [Academic Calendar](#).

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- **Fall** term (September through December)
- **Winter** term (January through April)
- **Spring** term (May through June): Spring term is an optional (for Open Studies – it is a mandatory term for Practical Nurse students), condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- **Summer** term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are very limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- For Fall or Winter, the maximum course load is:
 - 5 post-secondary courses
 - OR 2 upgrading courses and 2 post-secondary courses
 - OR 1 upgrading course and 3 post-secondary courses
 - OR 3 upgrading courses
- For Spring or Summer, the maximum course load is:
 - 2 courses, regardless of whether they are upgrading or post-secondary level.
- We encourage you to find the best course load for you to be successful in your courses and your program! Open Studies is very flexible and you can choose a course load that matches your goals and the demands of your life.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Complete an [RPL application form](#) and provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

NOTE: With the exception of English and Electives, courses must be completed within two years of starting the Practical Nurse program in order to be accepted for credit.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

PRACTICAL NURSE

Possible courses for advanced credit	Notes
ENGL 219	Pre-requisite of ELA 30-1 Required 1 st year course
Open Elective	Any 3-credit liberal arts, humanities, science or social science course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be any level (except upgrading) and any subject • PSYC 260 and SOCI 260 are popular options • See guide for expanded list of possible options
KNSS 200	Credit awarded for NURS 215* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be completed within 2 years of starting the PN program to receive credit • For students also interested in the BSCN program, it also must be completed within 2 years AND a minimum grade of C+ is required. • This course is reserved for KNSS students until the middle of July. IF there are still seats available after that point, Open Studies students may register.
<p>If you require upgrading in order to meet the minimum admission requirements for the program, you can add them to your Open Studies schedule – Academic Upgrading course equivalencies can be found on our website.</p>	

Important Notes about the Practical Nurse program

- Fall intake: Apply and submit transcripts by March 1st
- Winter intake: Apply by June 1st, and submit transcripts by July 2nd (Courses must be completed by June 1st in order to be included in the GPA calculation).
- This program is competitive, based on GPA. Only classes completed by the GPA calculation deadline will be included.
- Completing any of the above classes does not increase your chances of gaining admission, nor will it shorten the length of the program. It will provide a lighter course load, however.
- You may choose to complete additional courses to boost your GPA, but anything beyond the 3 listed above will not transfer into the PN program.

Post-secondary credits will be used in the GPA calculation for admission before high school credits, regardless of when the post-secondary credits were taken. Upgrading courses taken at a post-secondary institution are considered high school credits, NOT post-secondary, and will be assigned a value of 5 credits.

GPA's will not be recalculated if you completed additional courses after the transcript deadline. Minimum admission requirements may be completed after the deadline, however, as long as they are completed before the program starts.

For details regarding how GPA's will be calculated, please see the [Academic Calendar](#)

For an alternative route to Practical Nurse, please see the [Pre-Health Sciences](#) program. This program will meet the Math and Biology admission requirements, and 20 seats in the PN program are reserved for Pre-Health graduates with a minimum GPA of 3.3 and at least a C in each required course.

Students who are interested in both Bachelor of Science Nursing and Practical Nurse are advised to take Open Studies. Students who are only interested in Practical Nurse (or other, non-nursing health science programs) may benefit more strongly from Pre-Health Sciences. Please talk to an advisor if you are unsure!

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca