

Nurses in training

What options are available if you want to become a nurse? Programs are available at both the diploma and degree levels at both St. Clair College and the University of Windsor.

Registered Practical Nurse (RPN)

The Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) of today is the primary bedside nurse in hospitals, nursing homes, home care, and clinics. RPN roles and responsibilities have expanded to include administration of medications by injection and intravenous infusion, application of sterile dressings, and greater leadership and management functions. The professional practical nurse is a highly valued member of the health care system.

The St. Clair College Practical Nursing Program prepares men and women for certification as RPNs. They offer a two-year program that includes study in the classroom setting, practice in a laboratory setting, and performance of nursing skills in various clinical settings. A key feature of the program is a 10-week preceptorship experience in hospital and community settings, with a graduate R.P.N. to facilitate transition from the student role to the professional nurse role.

For September 2005, the Practical Nursing Program will accept 90 students who have met admission requirements. The successful candidates will have met specific grade requirements for Grade 12 English and Math and for senior level Biology and Chemistry.

The program is usually oversubscribed; therefore the possibility for acceptance improves with higher grades in the required high school courses.

Senior level Physics is recommended but not required. It is also recommended that candidates come into the program with current certification in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and First Aid.

Graduates of the Practical Nursing Program are well-prepared for positions in a variety of health care settings such as private homes, private practice, long-term care facilities, community health care agencies, hospitals, physicians' offices, and clinics. The employment rates in nursing are some of the highest of college graduates.

For graduates of the Practical Nursing Program who wish to expand their education, there are many post-graduate courses that are offered at the college. St. Clair College is in the process of an agreement with Henry Ford Community College in Detroit whereby RPN graduates can further their education and obtain an Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN), leading to Registered Nurse (RN) status in the States.

Professional practical nurses are those who develop excellent interpersonal, organizational, critical thinking, and leadership skills. The ideal nurse is one who is emotionally mature, a role model for healthy lifestyle choices, interested in working with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, and committed to the nursing profession. Truly, the art and science of nursing is found in the practical nurse who is the heart of bedside nursing.

University of Windsor Collaborative Nursing Program

The mission of the University of Windsor's nursing program, in collaboration with its partners St. Clair College and Lambton College, is to prepare graduates who will practise in partnership with clients, families, communities, groups and service providers, to facilitate the promotion, achievement, and maintenance of optimal levels of health.

The university offers degrees and programs as follows:

- BScN
- Post Diploma BScN
- Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- Master of Science Degree in Nursing
- Master of Nursing Degree

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

A BScN degree provides the skills and knowledge to obtain entry-level positions in all areas of health care. Settings in which graduates may practise range from health promotion in the community to the high-tech environment of hospital trauma nursing.

The BScN Program is four years in length and designed for individuals who are seeking to prepare for a career in nursing. The curriculum is

based on the premise that professional nursing is multidisciplinary in nature - applying nursing, biological and social sciences, as well as the arts, to the care of individuals, families and communities.

Clinical experiences begin in Year One and continue throughout the four-year program, and include hospital and community settings, independent learning laboratories, simulated activities, hands-on experiences and individual conferences.

Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program

Primary Health Care Nurse Practi-

tioners (NP) are generalists who offer comprehensive and continuous care to clients - individuals, families and communities - across the health continuum and throughout the client's life span.

Nurse practitioners diagnose and manage diseases commonly seen in health care and they monitor clients

with conditions like diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure and arthritis. Nurse practitioners can order lab work, x-rays, ultrasounds and can prescribe medications. Emphasis is placed on health promotion and disease prevention, taking into account the health care needs, abilities and resources of the person.

The NP works closely with other members of the health team to provide comprehensive care. The goal of the Nurse Practitioner Educational Program is to prepare a practitioner who bases practice on advanced knowledge of nursing art and science, and on the content relevant to health care from other sciences. They are responsible and accountable for their own practice.

Degree-prepared nurses will be able to complete a Nurse Practitioner Certificate in 12 months of full-time study. Individualized course schedules are planned in consultation with the university. The seven NP core courses are:

- Pathophysiology Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnosis I
- Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnosis II
- Therapeutics in Primary Health Care I
- Therapeutics in Primary Health Care II
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Integrative Practicum

Applicants must be registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario, have a university degree in Nursing, and have a minimum overall nursing average of 70 per cent. Applicants must present evidence of the equivalent of a minimum of two years full-time nursing practice within the past five years.

The community is in need of more NPs to meet the health care needs in this under serviced area. For this reason the University of Windsor strongly encourages experienced RNs to consider becoming an NP.



University of Windsor nursing student, Amy Poole, looks over a chart in a recovery room at Hotel Dieu.



Registered Practical Nurse student, Renee Stiers (far right) gets some hands-on experience from Mona Turner RPN (centre) while ward clerk Jami Dwyer takes a phone call.

***NURSES...
their influence on the
health of our
community is profound.***



***Thank you to our nurses
at the heart of the city.***

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*Sunrise thanks the nurses
in our community
and our home
for their dedication
and service to others.*

*Your caring hearts
and loving hands
make a difference
each and every day!*

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**Nurses make the difference...
to our clients and to us**

We thank you for your caring, strength & compassion.

As a national provider of home and community health services, we recognize that the quality of our service depends on our caregivers - especially the more than 1,000 nurses we employ across Canada.

To support them, we strive to maintain a culture that's a lot like they are, built on respect for each other, being supportive, treating people as individuals and continuously learning and improving.

Our nurses and caregivers make us who we are. They help us live our mission of "making a difference in our clients' lives - every visit, every time."

— From the staff at Bayshore Home Health's Windsor office

519.973.5411 / 1.800.542.7471
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Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) are a great patient care resource and an essential part of the medical team in Ontario hospitals and long-term facilities.

Many Ontario hospitals understand how important the skills of RPNs are to good patient outcomes and utilize RPNs to their full scope of practice.

Windsor patients deserve more of the quality, hands-on care RPNs provide.

A message from:

**Registered Practical Nurses
at the Windsor Regional Hospital
CUPE 1132**

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