

Nursing Re-entry Program Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I consider the Nursing Re-entry program? What sets this program apart from other programs?

This program stands out because with each of the learning steps in the curricula there are opportunities to relate the theory directly to clinical practice. Furthermore, the curriculum is continuously being revised, updated, and taught by registered nurses who continue to practice in a clinical setting.

What are the program highlights?

You will have one dedicated re-entry faculty for all of your classes.

You will have access to the curriculum from the comfort of your own home using a self-paced study format.

This program recognizes your past experience as an RN and focuses on the changing aspects of the nursing profession (increased scope of practice, technology, and leadership).

Is this program approved?

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) is responsible for the approval of the Nursing Re-entry program. The approval criterion ensures that graduates meet the standards and have achieved the minimum competencies for practice as set forth by the SRNA.

When can I start courses in the program?

You can start any time of the year from September 1 to May 31 as the program has ongoing enrolment.

How is the program offered?

The program is offered by distance learning. The learning method is home study with a combination of print-based learning and online modules. You can submit your assignments by email, computer upload, regular mail or fax. You will require a computer and high speed internet access.

How many courses are there in the program?

There are 13 theory courses, two labs and two clinical practice education components.

You will have 12 weeks to complete each theory course. Some courses have prerequisites.

I have not been in school for awhile. Do you have any suggestions for enhancing my study skills?

There are wonderful study skills tools on the internet. One that former students recommend is Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review (SQ3R). Type this into a search engine to find resources using this strategy. SIAST Libraries also has a wealth of resources that they direct you to help you study, write exams and write papers.

How will I communicate with faculty?

Program faculty are available to support you via the telephone and email.

There is no faculty support in July and August; these months are not counted when determining your end date.

I have always attended formal classroom education. Distance learning seems like it would be a lonely experience. Is there any way I could have contact with my classmates?

While distance learning can be a lonely experience, all students are given the opportunity to complete a Freedom of Information consent form. If you agree to allow our faculty to release your contact information to other students, then you can be linked up with your classmates. Your information is only given to other classmates and is only released with your consent.

I have never taken online courses before. How do I know if I have the attributes to be a successful online learner?

Distance education takes added time and energy, therefore it is suggested that you evaluate your readiness for learning via distance. Self assessment tools to determine if online learning is right for you are available on the internet and on request to the program.

Personal attributes of the successful online learner are:

- Ability to assume responsibility for own learning
- Self-directed and motivated
- Persistent and confident
- Ability to problem-solve
- Active in their learning
- Effective time management skills
- Disciplined to study without external reminders

Basic technical skills that you need include:

- Basic computer literacy
- Word processing
- Searching on the internet
- Taking time to complete available online tutorials and use help screens

What kind of supports can I put in place to ensure I am successful as an online learner?

SIAST has a wealth of tutorials and support tools to ensure your success. A successful online student searches out these tools and uses them. When a student is registered into a SIAST course for the first time, the student is also enrolled in a free orientation course called "Online learning made easy." Students are strongly encouraged to complete this short course to learn

about supports SIAST has in place to enhance your success. Students who complete the orientation tools before the course begins have reduced frustration when the course starts.

Student success is also enhanced through family and employer support. Families can provide childcare or assist with household chores. When employers allow flexible hours for school obligations or use of a computer at work, success is also enhanced. Some students have found that having a personal laptop that can be taken with them wherever they go enhances their success.

How will I progress through the program?

Each of the theory courses is divided into learning outcomes that cover specific material. Each learning outcome is divided into learning steps that will guide you in your learning. There are review exercises included at the end of each learning outcome that allow you to assess your learning. Most theory courses have a midterm and final exam. Some courses have assignments to evaluate your knowledge. Guidelines for completing assignments and the grading criteria are included in the course manuals.

There are two 15-hour on-site simulation labs in Regina. One lab covers medical asepsis, mobility and health assessment. The second lab covers nursing skills (such as surgical asepsis, oxygenation, catheterization, administration of medications, suctioning and tracheostomy care). Your nursing skills will be evaluated in the lab. You must demonstrate mastery of the required psychomotor skills and health assessment techniques prior to entering the clinical area.

There are two clinical practice experiences. The first one is an orientation to the clinical area and you will complete it approximately half way through the program. You will take the second one after successfully completing all the theory and lab courses. Both clinical experiences can be done in your home community. You must successfully complete all the theory courses prior to entering the clinical area. The preceptor and faculty will evaluate your performance in the clinical practicums. All are graded as pass / fail.

Where are the labs held?

The labs are held in Regina at Wascana Campus. They are held at various times throughout the year according to student need. There is a minimum number of students required in order to offer the labs.

Where will my clinical practice education take place?

You will do your clinical practicum in your home community. You will be placed with a preceptor who will help you with your learning.

Where do I write my exams?

An approved test site will be assigned to you when you are registered in program courses.

Generally, students write their exams online in the test centers located at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina or SIAST Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon.

When you write your exams online, test center staff will orientate you to the test-writing software. You must schedule an extra 15 minutes before your first exam for your orientation. The exams are multiple choice and require the writer to know how to use a mouse and read onscreen instructions.

Can I get credit for prior learning?

Please go to [Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#).

If you have been away from nursing for 10 years or less and were previously registered in Canada, you have the opportunity to receive credit for prior learning through challenge exams.

Where can I buy my books and other materials?

Information on purchasing textbooks and course manuals will be provided when you register. Material is available for purchase online, by phone, or in person.

What completion document do I receive after completing the program?

Upon graduation, you will receive an applied certificate in Nursing Re-entry and will be eligible for registration as a registered nurse (RN).