

Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses Program Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I consider the Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses program? What sets this program apart from other programs?

As a student in the Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses program, you'll gain a better understanding of the Canadian health care system, learn how to communicate within the context of nursing in Canada and gain knowledge and skills required for a nurse working in Canada.

This program also stands out because you can work at your own pace. It allows flexibility so that you can continue working.

Is this program approved?

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) is responsible for the approval of the Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses 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?

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 and classroom learning. The distance learning method is home study with print-based learning materials. You can submit your assignments by email, regular mail or fax.

How many courses are there in the program?

There are 10 theory courses, one lab and one clinical component.

The three communication courses are taught on site and are five weeks each. The health assessment courses are 12 weeks each. The other five theory courses are 15 weeks each. 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.

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 communicate with faculty?

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

There is no faculty support in July and August as 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.

Online students have an opportunity to chat, conduct discussions via the online course and are encouraged to exchange contact information with other students if they choose to do so. The program strives to create community of e-learners who are interactive and share the learning experience(s) with one another.

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 is one 75-hour lab that will help you adapt your nursing skills to the techniques used in Canada.

There is one faculty-supervised clinical practice education with a ratio of 1:4.

Where are the labs held?

The labs are held in Regina at Wascana Campus. A minimum number of students is required in order to offer the labs.

When is clinical practice education offered?

The clinical practice education is set up after four students successfully complete the required theory courses.

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.

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 Orientation to Nursing in Canada for Internationally Educated Nurses.