

Program Description

The Practical Nursing Diploma (PN) is a two-year program designed to provide learners with the knowledge, skills, judgments and attitudes to perform the full range of competencies as identified by the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals. Upon completion of the program, learners will possess the competencies to complete the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE) to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The PN Diploma is only offered at the TRU Williams Lake campus

The program, using the BC Provincial Practical Nurse Curriculum, provides a learning experience that is integrated, professional, collaborative and culturally sensitive, with an aim to prepare graduates to care for individuals and families at multiple life stages and in a variety of practice settings. Students study a variety of courses in nursing, and the physical and social sciences that are applied to the nursing care of individuals and their families. Studies give students the technical knowledge, human understanding and practical skills to provide responsible and competent client-centered care. Students have five clinical practice experiences throughout the two years of the program, including four consolidated experiences (one after each theory session) and one final Preceptorship. Clinical practice courses occur in residential and acute care facilities, community health agencies, and homes. Regional agencies outside of Williams Lake are used for clinical practice, requiring students to travel. Clinical practice may also include evening and weekend experiences.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to function as team members in acute care, residential care, clinics, home care agencies and community health agencies.

Next Intake Date(s)

Every other year, on even years; September 2020 (Fall), September 2022 (Fall), September 2024 (Fall), etc.

Learning Options

- **Full-time study.** The program is offered on a full-time basis over two years. Part-time study is not available.
- **Practical Nursing at TRU is not available as an online/distance program.**

Application Deadline

May 1, 2020

Applications are accepted from October 1 to May 1. Late applications will not be accepted. The supporting document deadline, including high school and post-secondary transcripts, is the same date as the application deadline or within 10 days of submission of the application, or whichever is later.

Admission Requirements

Admission is selective and competitive. Not all applicants who meet the minimum requirements are accepted into the program. Please meet with an Academic Advisor for guidance.

Educational Requirements

1. Grade 12 (or equivalent), or mature student status
2. English Studies 12 with a minimum 65% or English First Peoples with a minimum grade of 65% (or equivalent)
3. Foundations of Math 11 with a minimum 60% (or equivalent)
4. Anatomy & Physiology 12 with a minimum 60% (or equivalent)
5. Human Anatomy & Physiology for Practical Nurses with a minimum of 65%
 - TRU Williams Lake offers PNUR 1300: Human Anatomy & Physiology for Practical Nurses on campus every winter (January – April) semester. Alternatively, TRU Open Learning offers HLTH 1121; however, PNUR 1300 is preferred as it is provincially accepted. Please note: The pre-requisite for Human Anatomy & Physiology is Anatomy & Physiology (Biology) 12 with a minimum 60% (or equivalent)

What if I don't meet the program requirements?

If you don't meet the program specific admission requirements, we're here to help you. You can still apply and be accepted to the Bachelor of Arts. Then, the TRU Williams Lake Academic Advisor will help you create a personalized course plan to upgrade and prepare for your program of choice.

Education Ranking Guidelines

Applicants with the highest post-secondary and high school GPA will be ranked highest.

Please note: The competitive admissions average varies with every intake year. If you meet minimum admission requirements (below), you are encouraged to apply.

Advancement Placement for Licensed Practical Nurses to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

TRU does not offer an official bridging program for licensed practical nurses (LPN) to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN). LPNs may apply for advancement placement into year 2 of the four-year BScN program, dependent on seat availability. Applicants who have a combination of nursing education and work experience of at least 1,600 hours as an LPN may be granted appropriate credit in the program.

Admission requirements are the same for all applicants applying to the BScN program. To apply as an LPN for a year 2 seat in the BScN program at TRU Williams Lake, you must apply the opposite (odd) year as an intake year as that is when year 2 is offered at TRU Williams Lake. If you apply for a year 1 BScN seat during an intake year at TRU Williams Lake, you will not receive advanced placement.

Admission to year 2 of the full-time BScN program is offered upon seat availability. In recent years, few, if any seats have come open. You will be notified of acceptance into year 2 only if a BScN seat becomes available

Laddering Between Health Care Programs: Health Care Assistant to Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

All levels of health care professionals are vital to the dedicated care of clients, as well as the overall function of our health care system. While it may seem like the best idea to start with the Health Care Assistant Certificate (HCA) and then "ladder" into the Practical Nursing Diploma (LPN) and then possibly "ladder" into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), that is not the case. In fact, the different levels of nursing education do not build upon each other, and by starting with the HCA or LPN program, it will potentially take longer for you to be successful in your application to the BScN. Some applicants may receive advanced placement, such as when Licensed Practical Nurses apply for a second year seat in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (as above), but that is a very limited number of students. If you're wondering where you should start, we encourage you to meet with our Academic Advisor on campus to create the best course and program plan for you.

International Students

The Practical Nursing Diploma (PN) at TRU Williams Lake does accept international students. Please note: All international applicants to the PN program are processed through TRU World, TRU's International Student Services department at TRU Kamloops. The international student application fee is \$100. For all international student inquiries, please email welcome@tru.ca.

Permanent Resident Students

If you are a Canadian Permanent Resident, and/or you did not graduate from a BC or Canadian high school, you may be required to meet and/or obtain the minimum English Language Proficiency requirement through additional coursework or approved English placement assessment. In general: if your high school and/or post-secondary was completed in a country where English is not the official language, you will likely have to complete one of the following:

- Assessment: TOEFL (iBT: 88+ with no sections below 2.0), IELTS (6.5+ with no bands below 6.0) or Pearson Test of English. Please note: English placement assessment likely needs to be completed in either Vancouver, Kamloops, Prince George, or another city.
- Additional Coursework: English as a Second Language (ESAL) course. Please note: TRU Williams Lake does not offer any ESAL courses.

How to Apply

1. **Submit your application after October 1, 2019.** There are two ways to submit a TRU application form: by printing and filling in the paper [TRU Application Form](#), then submitting it to the TRU WL admissions office in-person or by email to wladmissions@tru.ca; or you may apply online via [Education Planner BC website](#) (the latter method requires payment with credit card).
2. **Pay the application fee of \$29.83.** Your application will not be processed until the application fee is paid.
3. **Submit official high school transcripts and any post-secondary transcript(s),** before the application deadline, to:
Thompson Rivers University – Williams Lake Campus
Admissions Office
1250 Western Avenue
Williams Lake, BC V2G 1H7

BC high school applicants and graduates can submit their official transcripts through the [Student Transcripts Service \(STS\)](#).

Current high school applicants are required to submit their official transcripts before the application deadline and at the time of graduation. Please also ensure submission of interim grade 12 grades before the application deadline to increase your competitive consideration. Past high school applicants are required to submit their official transcript before the application deadline. To order your official high school transcript, please visit your provincial or territorial Ministry of Education website for further information.

Applicants are required to submit official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. If you are currently attending another post-secondary institution, you must submit an official transcript at the time of your application. Should you have courses in progress, you will be required to submit a final official transcript at completion of these courses.

Need help with transcripts? Find our step-by-step guide at tru.ca/future/admissions/undergrad/submit-transcript

You will be contacted by admissions via email within 2-3 weeks of submission of your online application regarding next steps.

Applicants are responsible to ensure all transcripts and required documents are submitted by the application deadline.

If you have previously applied to the BScN program, but were not accepted or did not attend, you must submit a new application.

Funding and Support Services

TRU Grit Awards are awarded annually to TRU Williams Lake students. The financial awards range from \$500 to \$2,000 and all students are encouraged to apply as all applications will be considered. Students who demonstrate a financial need will be given a higher priority. Applications open in late spring every year: tru.ca/williamslake/student-services/financialaid

TRU Student Awards & Financial Support offers a comprehensive range of programs to both assist students in financing their educational and living costs, and to recognize academic excellence. Financial support can be a combination of bursaries, scholarships, awards, work-study, loans and grants. More information can be found online: tru.ca/awards

Student loan funding is designed to supplement the resources of those who could not otherwise afford post-secondary studies. **BC Student Loan applications can be found online at studentaidbc.ca.** If you are a resident of another Canadian province or territory, you apply for government student assistance through your home province/territory.

Indigenous students are encouraged to contact TRU Williams Lake's Gathering Place (indigenous student services) at 250-392-8179. The Gathering Place is a friendly and inviting Indigenous centre that provides information on all aspects of university life and doubles as a space to socialize, study or just take a break from your day. It is truly a home away from home.

Accessibility Services provides academic accommodations and service to all eligible TRU students, both on campus and Open Learning. They facilitate equal access to educational opportunities by reducing physical, attitudinal and systematic barriers. Find out more online: tru.ca/as

Visit the TRU Williams Lake website, tru.ca/williamslake/studentervices for more information regarding additional support services, including counselling, sponsorship and student housing options.

Program Costs Estimate

Tuition – Year 1	\$4,842
Student Fees – Year 1	\$1,632
Books – Year 1	\$1000
Additional fees - Year 1 (immunizations, scrubs and shoes, lab kits, criminal record checks, etc.)	\$975
Total Approximate Cost – Year 1	\$8,449

Commitment Fee: If you are offered a seat in the PN program, to accept and hold your seat you are required to pay a \$500 tuition deposit within two weeks of receiving your official seat offer. The commitment fee will count as payment towards your tuition.

Payment deadlines: Tuition and student fees are due the last Friday in August for the Fall semester and the first Friday in January for the Winter semester.

Need Help? Contact Us.

The Practical Nursing Diploma can be a competitive program. We're here to help you with every step of the way.

TRU Williams Lake Reception (General inquiries and to book an advising appointment):

Phone: 250-392-8000

Email: wmain@tru.ca

TRU Williams Lake Admissions:

Phone: 250-392-8020

Email: wladmissions@tru.ca