

# NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

Programs offered in North Bay, Online, & in Toronto

[www.nipissingu.ca](http://www.nipissingu.ca)

School of Nursing



## Program Description

Do you want a career that is both challenging and rewarding? If you really want to make a difference in peoples' lives and are interested in combining science and technology with a compassionate human touch, then consider a career in nursing. Nurses are at the centre of health care delivery in key transition points. Nurses also excel in leadership and administrative roles that incorporate research, management, and education.

When you accept admission to the School of Nursing at Nipissing, you will learn the science of nursing in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It is a challenging degree program that will expose you to the vast breadth of the profession and the sharp number of career paths available to you. Nipissing offers four different routes to obtain a nursing degree, whether you are just graduating high school, a practicing RPN, or considering a career change. Nursing at Nipissing will give you the practical, critical thinking, and communication skills you will need to succeed. If you want to learn in a collaborative and community-oriented environment, then Nipissing University is right where you belong.

## Our Teaching Approach

Our atmosphere fosters professionalism and inclusiveness to all styles of education. We offer a quality, learner-centered education and our teaching delivery ranges from small, friendly classrooms to convenient online learning environments. With diverse and tangible backgrounds in health care, our professors and instructors are dedicated to your success and through our mentorship model, will help you progress with an emphasis on self-awareness, critical thinking, and reflection. We carefully balance theory and clinical practice to make sure that you are well-prepared to begin a career after graduation.

Our small class sizes, group work, interactive online courses, one-on-one support, and a genuine interest in your well-being fosters the development of strong professional and personal relationships with your professors and peers. No matter what nursing track you are in, you will be surrounded by those who will share their successes and lend you support.

The Nipissing University Nursing Society (NUNS) is comprised of a group of nursing student representatives that organize fun social activities as well as provide students with support for academic needs. NUNS facilitates activities that support professional development, co-mentorship among students in all years, opportunities for social interaction, encouragement for students to get involved and contribute to the local community, nursing clothing and lab kit orders, first year orientations, and a variety of fundraising events.

Graduates of the Nipissing University School of Nursing commence their nursing careers within local, national, and international health care delivery environments. Many excel in their careers to become leaders in nursing and health care organizations.

## Programs and Faculty

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

- Collaborative program with Canadore College
- On-campus in North Bay, Full-time, 4-year

This Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) program is offered through an educational partnership with Canadore College. Classes are learner-centred, and are taught by skilled faculty from both schools. This on-campus, 4-year degree is a limited enrolment program, open to high school students, transfer students, mature students, and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs).

You will take classes at Nipissing University and Canadore College – conveniently located on the same campus – and will complete clinical experiences at the North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC), and at agencies throughout the region, depending on your practicum's focus. You will study the science behind the nursing profession, health promotion, disease prevention, clinical technology and procedures, and therapeutic communication. All the while you will build valuable skills in observation and assessment, interviewing techniques, critical thinking, and problem solving. With no time to waste, you will get started on clinical experiences in your first year. To further develop your practical knowledge and skills, access to state-of-the-art Simulation Labs will help you to learn material and acquire proficiencies that haven't yet been encountered in clinical practice.

Starting in your very first nursing course, you will complete a clinical practicum and shadow nurses who currently work in health care. Each week, you will have 2 days of clinical experience (which may take place during the day or in the evening), and 3 days of courses and labs where you will learn foundational science and theory. You will also spend 6 weeks working in a complex continuing care unit, and 6 weeks in a long-term care unit.

As you progress through the courses, you will build on your skills and take on more responsibility in the clinical environment. Clinical experiences in medicine/surgery, and maternal child/mental health continue in second year. You will also begin to learn the theory that underlies diseases and their treatments.

In later semesters, you will interact with nurses in specialized settings to deal with a wide range of patients and health concerns. During your third year, you will have acquired basic acute and specialty area skills, and will start working more independently, either visiting a family with a chronic complex-care illness to deliver help, or preceptoring a nurse working in the community on population-based projects like public health. You will also tackle broader nursing topics, including theories, research, and the larger network of services within the health care system.

In fourth year, your work becomes more complex, as you begin to study



patients within a larger context of pathologies, conditions, family, and community. Your final semester will have you completing an extended clinical practicum, where you will preceptor with one nurse. In this final practice nursing experience, you may have the opportunity to choose where you learn—the program offers the opportunity to apply your newfound knowledge and skills either in specialized practice settings or in places around the world. Practicums take place in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, the community, patient homes, long-term care, mental health settings, and clinics.

When you graduate, you will be well prepared to write the national licensing exam and enter a rewarding profession that can lead to a job anywhere in the world.

## Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) Bridging Program

- Collaborative program with Canadore College
- On-campus in North Bay, Full-time, 3-year

If you already have an RPN diploma and are registered, or if you're currently undergoing the registration process through the College of Nurses of Ontario, Nipissing offers a 3-year RPN to BScN Bridging Program with Canadore College. This program is offered on the North Bay campus on a full-time basis. This degree differs slightly from the BScN Collaborative Program in that you receive credit for the first-year curriculum from your RPN diploma and begin the collaborative program at the second year level. You will complete a semester of bridging courses before integrating fully into the on-campus BScN program.

## Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) Blended Learning Program

- Distance Education, Part-time, 5-year

Nipissing is the only university in Ontario to offer you the option of earning your BScN on a part-time basis and from anywhere in Ontario. If you already have a RPN diploma, are registered through the College of Nurses, and are working at one of our partnership agencies in Ontario, you are eligible to apply. If you are highly motivated and computer literate, this program is an excellent alternative to a full-time, on-campus program. The Blended Learning Program functions in partnership with health care institutions across Ontario. It offers everything the on-campus Bridging Program delivers, but with the flexibility of allowing you to practice as an RPN while you study part-time in an online learning environment, with clinical experiences in settings close to your home.

In first year, you will complete two courses per term. Just like the BScN Bridging Program, you will start with 2000-level courses and be eased into the rhythm of distance learning and working online. At the end of first year, you will complete a clinical experience at either the health care agency that you are already employed by, or at one of our other partner agencies. This program follows the same basic progression as the on-campus RPN to BScN Bridging Program, but is spaced over 5 years. You'll complete 6 clinical experiences over the course of the degree.

Much of your learning will take place in an online environment, but we take care to ensure that you feel supported and part of our community. We provide a special orientation to distance and online learners at the beginning



of the program, and you will also have opportunities to meet your peers through practicums and clinical experiences. In addition, our faculty and staff are always available should you have concerns or need help.

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) Scholar Practitioner Program (SPP)

- Toronto, Full-time, 2-year (year round)

If you already have an undergraduate degree and a strong career interest in nursing and health care, Nipissing offers an accelerated, full-time, 2-year, 6-semester BScN Scholar Practitioner Program. This program is grounded in the core competencies of entry to practice nursing standards within an innovative curricular design of narrative inquiry and cognitive apprenticeship pedagogies. Narrative inquiry pedagogy focuses on the processes of teaching, interpreting, critically thinking and analyzing concepts, ideas, and situations. This particular teaching method fosters the creation of partnerships in learning rather than the traditional hierarchy of education. The extensive clinical practicums and professional networking offered within our affiliate organizations support the model of cognitive apprenticeship. Both approaches augment one another to meet the educational demands of current continuous changing healthcare environments.

The program is offered in Toronto, in partnership with leading academic research health care delivery organizations. Each of the Toronto based affiliate partners offers highly integrated and comprehensive learning opportunities within point of care environments. Program studies are guided by faculty facilitators from our partner health organizations who focus on a blended learning delivery model that incorporates learning through research, knowledge development, and skill acquisition. This highly self-directed program connects you with leading health care clinicians who help you gain the competencies required to meet the standards set out by the College of Nurses to become an entry-level, degree educated nurse. Ours is a unique approach to learning that leverages the collaboration between facilitators, students and point of care preceptors through a discovery model of experiential practice to graduate practice-ready nurses.

## Nursing Mentor Program

If you are a first-year nursing student in our on-campus programs, you can join a mentoring program that will pair you with an upper-year nursing student. The mentorship program, facilitated by the Nipissing University Nursing Society, gives you access to support and resources. Peers share their experiences with each other and become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities both on- and off-campus. Additional academic support can be accessed through the Office of Student Development and Services.



## International Mobility – Placement and Study

Looking for an international experience? Nipissing University nursing students can apply to study or complete a placement abroad (depending on eligibility and availability) and apply earned credits toward their Nipissing degree. Our students have experienced nursing education in Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States. To find out more about our international partner destinations, contact the International Initiatives office at [nuglobal@nipissingu.ca](mailto:nuglobal@nipissingu.ca) or visit the website: [www.nipissingu.ca/international](http://www.nipissingu.ca/international)

## Why Nipissing?

Becoming a part of our community, whether on-site or online, is just one of the many perks of a Nipissing degree. You will benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors and often even outside of classroom hours. Nipissing is focused on student success and you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally. In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself why you belong at Nipissing.

## Where can I go from here?

Nipissing takes pride in knowing that, as a graduate of the nursing program, you will be equipped with the required nursing knowledge, skills, and competencies that you will need to meet your goals. You will be well positioned to work within the many domains of nursing such as public health, community and hospital nursing, health education, and case management. You may also consider future directions in academic or research institutions, furthering your education with graduate studies, or starting your career in today's complex health care system, research-related jobs, or administration. Whatever career path you choose, Nipissing will have prepared you for a rewarding and challenging experience!

For more information, please visit: [www.nipissingu.ca/nursing](http://www.nipissingu.ca/nursing)



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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