Maria Bishop RPN, ADPN, BHSc, MEd
Joan Crisp RPN, RN, BSN, MEd
Marlene Graveson RN, BScN, MSN
What/Who is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)?

- **History** of Psychiatric Nursing Education
- 2900 RPNS in BC and > 6000 RPNs in Canada (RN 40,000 in BC and >300,000 Canada)
- Registered Psychiatric Nurses in BC are governed by the Health Professions Act (1996)
- Distinct independent health care profession regulated by a Regulatory College (BCCNP)
- Educated in the 4 western provinces
- 3 programs in BC
- BCIT/Douglas College has offered Psychiatric Nursing Education for 30+ years
- RPNs’ practice involves working with individuals, groups, families, & communities that are experiencing mental health issues
What Does a Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN) DO?

- RPNs specialize in psychiatric/mental health care & addictions.

- RPNs provide holistic mental & physical health nursing care while addressing the complex relationships between mental, emotional, and physical health, as well as the influence of social, culture and spiritual factors.

- RPNs have specialized, in-depth knowledge & practice related to mental health conditions.

- RPNS use advanced mental health assessments (e.g. mental status exams and risk assessments), communication skills & therapeutic relationships to provide quality psychiatric nursing care.
What Does a Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN) DO?

- RPNs assess client/patient needs, & develop and evaluate treatment plans in collaboration with other health care team members; provide counselling (advanced skill).
  
  - RPNs study pharmacology, psychomotor skills, and sciences, such as anatomy & physiology, pathophysiology and microbiology, to provide evidence-informed care.
  
  - RPNs do not practice in pediatric, maternity or advanced medical/surgical clinical settings.
RPNs are regarded as the employee of choice by most mental health employers.

RPNs experience good employment rates, although related to government funding.

New psychiatric nursing graduates may need to start with casual or on-call employment in one or more jobs to gain experience.

Mobility Opportunities & Challenges

- RPNs work in western Canadian provinces only
- RPNS practice in many Commonwealth countries around the world (not U.S.)

WAGES:

- beginning wages are approximately $64,000 to $74,000 per year

RPNs with a BSPN can earn a Masters degree in fields such as psychiatric nursing, leadership, counselling, or education.
Broad Range of Career Opportunities

- Psychiatric units in general hospitals
- Tertiary mental health units
- Hospital emergency rooms
- Outpatient Programs
- Child & youth programs
- Older Adults/gerontology
- Substance misuse & Addictions programs
- Corrections/Forensics
- Non-Profits offering Mental Health Services
- Eating disorder programs
- Palliative care
- Community mental health Teams
- ACT Teams
- Community outreach programs
- Crisis intervention
- Group homes
- Intermediate care facilities
- Education
- Private practice (more education necessary)
RPN Roles

- Staff nurses
- Managers, Team leaders, Supervisors
- Clinical nurse specialists
- Case managers
- Educators
- Researchers
- Independent Private Practice or Consultants (Advanced Practice)
First step is to apply online:

- Academic Foundations for Potential Psychiatric Nursing (AFPN) Applicants
- Minimum requirements for admission into AFPN:
  - English 12 with minimum grade of B
  - Biology 11 or 12 with minimum grade of B
  - Foundations of Math 11 or 12 with a minimum grade of B
- First qualified, first admitted until seat capacity reached
- 30 UT credits AFPN courses:
  - English, Human Anatomy & Physiology, Microbiology, Pathophysiology, Psychology, Statistics, Open Elective courses
  - C+ required in each course
- Completion of 30 UT courses is academic admission requirement for BSPN Program
- No guarantee of admission to BSPN Program
- Separate application required for BSPN program after completion of AFPN
After completion of the AFPN courses:

Note: Priority preference will be given for admissions into the BSPN Program to students in the AFPN Program

- **Apply** to the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program
- Non-Academic Admission Requirements: Potential Interview, Health Assessment, Immunization Record, Criminal Record Check, Tuition Deposit ($350)
- Two intakes per year (Fall & Winter)
- Application dates: October (for following Fall) and Feb (for following Winter)
- *First qualified, first admitted* until seat capacity reached (40 seats each intake)
- No waiting lists (applicants need to reapply for each intake)
- Designated Seats into AF and BSPN Program (Indigenous, High School and Douglas College Health Care Support Worker graduates)
- BPSN program: 90.5 credits (Years 2, 3, 4)
- **Minimum C+** grade in each BSPN course
- Online BSPN Degree Completion Pathway (for Diploma prepared practicing RPNs)

**NOTE:** there is currently no bridge to access DC BSN program from BSPN program
# Academic Foundations Required Courses - Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGL 1130 (3) Academic Writing</th>
<th>Semester One</th>
<th>Semester Three</th>
<th>Semester Five</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1103 (3) Human Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>PNUR 2101 (4.5) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts I</td>
<td>PNUM 3301 (4.5) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts III (Episodic)</td>
<td>PNUM 4572 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Community Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1203 (3) Human Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>PNUR 2121 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations I</td>
<td>PNUM 3321 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations III</td>
<td>PNUM 4573 (3) Psychiatric Nursing of Children and Adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 1100 (3) An Introduction to Psychology I</td>
<td>PNUR 2130 (1.5) Clinical Procedures I</td>
<td>PNUM 3330 (1.5) Clinical Procedures III</td>
<td>PNUM 4521 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations V</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 1200 (3) An Introduction to Psychology II</td>
<td>PNUR 2175 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Research</td>
<td>PNUM 3361 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice II (Episodic Health Challenges I)</td>
<td>PNUM 4562 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice IV (Complex Health Challenges)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1160 (3) Introduction to Statistics Or PSYC 2300 (3) Data Analysis in Psychology</td>
<td>PNUR 2170 (1.5) Trauma Informed Practices I</td>
<td>PNUM 3350 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Pharmacology</td>
<td>PNUM 4501 (3) Nursing Leadership and Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2401 (3) Introduction to Microbiology</td>
<td>PNUR 2171 (3) Family Health Promotions</td>
<td>Total 18 Credits</td>
<td>Total 14 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2200 (3) Pathophysiology</td>
<td>PHIL 3125 (3) Ethics for Psychiatric Nursing</td>
<td>Total 15.5 credits</td>
<td>Total 17 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL Elective (3)</td>
<td>PNUR 2201 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts II</td>
<td>Total 15.5 Credits</td>
<td>Total 10.5 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Open UT Elective (3)</td>
<td>PNUR 2221 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations II</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PNUR 2230 (1.5) Clinical Procedures II</td>
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<td>PNUR 2261 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PNUR 2285 (3) Psychiatric Nursing in Addictions and Mental Health</td>
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Total 30 Credits

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<tr>
<th>Semester Two</th>
<th>Semester Four</th>
<th>Semester Six</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PNUR 2201 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts II</td>
<td>PNUR 3401 (4.5) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts IV (Episodic)</td>
<td>PNUM 4670 (1.5) Trauma Informed Practices II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNUR 2221 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations II</td>
<td>PNUR 3421 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations IV</td>
<td>PNUM 4661 (9) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice V</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNUR 2230 (1.5) Clinical Procedures II</td>
<td>PNUR 3430 (1.5) Clinical Procedures IV</td>
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<td>PNUR 2261 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice I</td>
<td>PNUR 3441 (1.5) Group Theory and Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNUR 2285 (3) Psychiatric Nursing in Addictions and Mental Health</td>
<td>PNUR 3462 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice III (Episodic Health Challenges II/ Older Adult)</td>
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<td>PNUR 3403 (3) Psychiatric Nursing and the Older Adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Focus:</td>
<td>Clinical Practice Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>Group Home project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Ongoing Health Challenges</td>
<td>7 weeks tertiary mental health setting &amp; 7 weeks medical unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 3</td>
<td>Episodic Health Challenges</td>
<td>7 weeks acute psychiatric setting &amp; 7 weeks acute medical/surgical unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 4</td>
<td>Episodic Health Challenges</td>
<td>7 weeks complex older adult setting &amp; 7 weeks acute medical/surgical unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 5</td>
<td>Complex Health Challenges</td>
<td>7 weeks acute psychiatric setting &amp; 7 weeks community mental health setting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 6</td>
<td>Preceptorship/Integration</td>
<td>11 weeks full time practice with RPN/RN preceptor across a variety of settings</td>
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1. Students are responsible for the following costs once a seat has been offered to our programs (approximate costs):

- CPR-HCP course: $200
- Standard First Aid/Criminal Record Check/Medical: $300
- Clinical supplies: $500
- N95 Mask Fit Testing: $40 (yearly)
- Textbooks and educational tools: varies per semester

2. BSPN Degree Program:

- AFPN + 3 years BSPN Program- Eight semester program at approximately $2500 to $3500 per semester

- **Total cost** (approximate): $22,000 to $30,000
Is This Program Right for Me?

Successful Psychiatric Nurses tend to have the following qualities:

- sensitivity & empathy
- self-awareness
- tolerance, respect for differences
- integrity
- good listening & observational skills
- collaborative & teamwork skills
- aptitude in math & science
- proficient written & verbal communication skills
- physical, mental & emotional fitness
- reasonable manual dexterity
- time & stress management skills
- basic computer proficiency
- commitment to lifelong learning
Questions about Transfer Credit?
Contact Academic Advising for drop-in, telephone, email or chat advice at
http://www.douglas.bc.ca

Questions about Academic Foundations?
Academic Foundations at
afcoord@douglascollege.ca

Other General Questions
Contact our Program Support & Services Specialist at:
barlowf@douglascollege.ca
Or 604 777 6406

Questions about the RPN Profession?
http://www.bccnp.ca