



DOUGLAS COLLEGE

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Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program

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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.

Employment Opportunities

- 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)



Academic Foundations for Potential Psychiatric Nursing Applicants (AFPN)

- **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

Douglas College

Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing (BSPN) Program



After completion of the ACPN courses:

Note: Priority preference will be given for admissions into the BSPN Program to students in the ACPN 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 ACPN and BSPN Program (Indigenous , High School and Douglas College Health Care Support Worker graduates)
- BSPN 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

BSPN PROGRAM DESIGN

| Academic Foundations Required Courses- Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
|--|---|--|--|
| ENGL 1130 (3) Academic Writing | Semester One | Semester Three | Semester Five |
| BIOL 1103 (3) Human Anatomy and Physiology I | PNUR 2101 (4.5) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts I | PNUR 3301 (4.5) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts III (Episodic) | PNUR 4572 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Community Concepts |
| BIOL 1203 (3) Human Anatomy and Physiology II | PNUR 2121 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations I | PNUR 3321 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations III | PNUR 4573 (3) Psychiatric Nursing of Children and Adolescents |
| PSYC 1100 (3) An Introduction to Psychology I | PNUR 2130 (1.5) Clinical Procedures I | PNUR 3330 (1.5) Clinical Procedures III | PNUR 4521 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations V |
| PSYC 1200 (3) An Introduction to Psychology II | PNUR 2175 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Research | PNUR 3361 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice II (Episodic Health Challenges I) | PNUR 4562 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice IV (Complex Health Challenges) |
| MATH 1160 (3) Introduction to Statistics Or PSYC 2300 (3) Data Analysis in Psychology | PNUR 2170 (1.5) Trauma Informed Practices 1 | PNUR 3350 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Pharmacology | PNUR 4501 (3) Nursing Leadership and Management |
| BIOL 2401 (3) Introduction to Microbiology | PNUR 2171 (3) Family Health Promotions | | |
| BIOL 2200 (3) Pathophysiology | PHIL 3125 (3) Ethics for Psychiatric Nursing | | |
| ENGL Elective (3) | Total 18 Credits | Total 15.5 credits | Total 15.5 Credits |
| One Open UT Elective (3) | Semester Two | Semester Four | Semester Six |
| | PNUR 2201 (3) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts II | PNUR 3401 (4.5) Psychiatric Nursing Concepts IV (Episodic) | PNUR 4670 (1.5) Trauma Informed Practices II |
| | PNUR 2221 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations II | PNUR 3421 (1.5) Therapeutic Relations IV | PNUR 4661 (9) |
| | PNUR 2230 (1.5) Clinical Procedures II | PNUR 3430 (1.5) Clinical Procedures IV | Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice V |
| | PNUR 2261 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice I | PNUR 3441 (1.5) Group Theory and Process | |
| | PNUR 2285 (3) Psychiatric Nursing in Addictions and Mental Health | PNUR 3462 (5) Psychiatric Nursing Clinical Practice III (Episodic Health Challenges II/ Older Adult) | |
| | | PNUR 3403 (3) Psychiatric Nursing and the Older Adult | |
| Total 30 Credits | Total 14 Credits | Total 17 Credits | Total 10.5 Credits |

BSPN Program Clinical Practice Courses

| Semester Focus | Clinical Practice Focus |
|--|---|
| Semester 1 Focus: Health & Wellness | Group Home project |
| Semester 2 Focus: Ongoing Health Challenges | 7 weeks tertiary mental health setting & 7 weeks medical unit |
| Semester 3 Focus: Episodic Health Challenges | 7 weeks acute psychiatric setting & 7 weeks acute medical/surgical unit |
| Semester 4 Focus: Episodic Health Challenges | 7 weeks complex older adult setting & 7 weeks acute medical/surgical unit |
| Semester 5 Focus: Complex Health Challenges | 7 weeks acute psychiatric setting & 7 weeks community mental health setting |
| Semester 6 Focus: Preceptorship/Integration | 11 weeks full time practice with RPN/RN preceptor across a variety of settings |







Program Costs

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

Contact Information



Questions about Transfer Credit?

Contact a Student Success Advisor for drop-in zoom or email advice at

<https://www.douglascollege.ca/current-students/advising-services/advising-services>

Questions about Academic Foundations?

Academic Foundations at

cafcoord@douglascollege.ca

Other General Questions

Contact our Program Support & Services Specialist at:

barlowf@douglascollege.ca

Or 604 777 6406

Contact the Psychiatric Nursing Student Coordinator at:

melletts@douglascollege.ca

Or 604-777-6435

Questions about the RPN Profession?

<http://www.bccnm.ca>