Thinking about a career? Think registered nurse!

Saskatchewan is experiencing a severe shortage of RNs and RPNs. This is an excellent time to consider nursing as a career.

How do I become an RN/RPN?

To become an RN or an RPN, a degree (BSN) is required. More career opportunities and the possibility of graduate study are open to nurses with university degrees. Most provinces already require a baccalaureate in nursing to enter the profession.

In Saskatchewan, the Nursing and Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) is a four-year degree program offered in three locations - Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. This is a collaborative program between SIAST, First Nations University of Canada, and the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

Nursing students will study psychology, child development, sociology, anatomy and physiology. The nursing courses include theory and clinical practice. You will be supervised and supported in the clinical setting to ensure the safety of patients and your own safety.

Besides learning social and physical sciences, university programs generally offer additional studies in leadership, health teaching, research and other disciplines. If you are interested in continuing your education, master’s and doctoral programs in nursing are available in Saskatchewan through the U of S.

Students who already have completed a university degree, may want to consider the NEPS Second Degree entry option. This is a two-year program available in Saskatchewan, offered only in Saskatoon.

For more information, check out SIAST’s website (www.siast.sk.ca) or the College of Nursing at www.usask.ca/nursing.

Get ready

Entrance requirements differ from one school to another. In Saskatchewan, the admission requirements are high school graduation with completion of English A30, English B30, Chemistry 30, Biology 30, and any math at the 30 level. Applications are available October 1 to January 15. For Admission questions, please contact SIAST toll free at 1-866-467-4278.

SUN Scholarships

SUN offers two scholarships for NEPS students:

1. The SUN Memorial Scholarship Fund was initiated at the request of the family of one of SUN’s former presidents, upon her passing. Annually, the trustees of the SUN Memorial Scholarship Fund award two $750 bursaries to first or second year NEPS students, one at each of the SIAST Wascana and Kelsey campuses. The selection criteria places more emphasis on financial need rather than academic excellence. Applications are available at those campuses.

2. There is also a SUN/Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) bursary of $1,000 available annually to a third or fourth year NEPS student. Application forms and information are available at all the Saskatchewan campuses as well as on SUN’s website at www.sun-nurses.sk.ca. Again, the criteria for this bursary places more emphasis on financial need rather than academic excellence, but it also gives preference to the child of a SUN member.

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