

# Psychiatric Nursing: Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing

<b>Faculty of Health</b>	kpu.ca/health
<b>Implementation Date</b>	01-Sep-2011
<b>Start Date(s)</b>	May
<b>Admission Type</b>	Selective entry
<b>Enrolment Type</b>	Limited enrolment
<b>Program Type</b>	Undergraduate
<b>Credential Granted</b>	Baccalaureate Degree
<b>Offered At</b>	Langley
<b>Format</b>	Full-time
<b>How to Apply</b>	www.kpu.ca/admission

## DESCRIPTION

The program is recognized by the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia (CRPNBC).

The purpose of the program is to educate learners to be competent, creative and caring practitioners of psychiatric/mental health nursing, who apply their creativity and critical thinking skills in the roles of direct care provider, educator, clinician, researcher, manager and/or entrepreneur.

Learners have opportunities to develop sensitivity to people's experiences with health and healing. Practicing within the psychiatric nurse's professional role, learners work as partners with individuals, families, groups, communities, and with other health care providers. Through their understanding of and participation in the changing health care system, graduates will be active participants in promoting health.

Learners complete eight (8) academic semesters to graduate with a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (BPN) degree. Graduates will be eligible to apply to write the national examination to obtain registration to practice as Registered Psychiatric Nurses in British Columbia. Access to degree completion by Registered Psychiatric Nurses or Stenberg College graduates is outlined separately.

The curriculum of the Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing program is based on the concepts of caring, teaching, learning, health, growth, change, and facilitative leadership. The program includes a strong Liberal Education component with 42/125 credits of courses that complement psychiatric nursing theory and practice. The curriculum considers the changing health care needs of our society. Caring and communication are understood as the attitude and activities of psychiatric nursing and are considered in every nursing course. A few selected Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing courses and some liberal education courses may be offered on-line.

A health promotion perspective has been used to organize the curriculum. This shift in focus from illness to health represents a deliberative move away from a medical model to an understanding of nurses' work as focusing on people and their experiences with health and healing. Inherent in this orientation is the use of teaching methodologies which encourage the development of critical thinking, and the discovery of personal meaning and personal power.

There is an emphasis on practice experiences as the foundation of psychiatric nursing theory and the recognition that nurses' work requires thoughtful, reflective action as defined by the concept of praxis. To assist in actualizing the concept of praxis, nursing practice experiences have been integrated throughout the program of studies. The concept of praxis is used to guide learners to critically reflect on their practice and on their application of psychiatric nursing knowledge and clinical judgment within the practice setting.

Learners who enroll in the program will receive a learner resource manual that provides information regarding program policies. Learners are responsible for familiarizing themselves with University policies and Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing program policies.

## Nursing Practice Experiences

Psychiatric/mental health nursing practice experiences are essential in the BPN program. Learners will be directly involved with clients in their homes and in institutional and community settings in each semester. These experiences may involve days, evenings, nights and weekends. Practice experiences occur throughout the Lower Mainland, and learners may choose to have placements locally, nationally and internationally. Learners are responsible for their own transportation and other expenses incurred as part of these experiences.

Some agencies may require learners to take an Oath of Confidentiality, have an additional criminal record search, or have a successful interview with their personnel prior to their agreement to accept the learner. Failure to have documentation acceptable to the agency at the time of placement may result in denial of the experience, which in turn may prevent completion of the program of studies.

## Degree Completion Options

The Degree Completion option for Registered Psychiatric Nurses provides registered psychiatric nurses with access to Semester 5 for completion of a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing degree. Once admission requirements are met, registered psychiatric nurses complete the equivalent of four semesters of full-time study. See degree completion for Registered Psychiatric Nurses for more information.

The Degree Completion option for Stenberg College Graduates provides un-registered graduates of the Stenberg College Registered Diploma Psychiatric Nurses (RDPN) program with access to Semester 5 for completion of a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing degree. Once admission requirements are met, students complete the equivalent of four semesters of full-time study. See degree completion for Stenberg graduates for more information.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of the program will be prepared to function as team members and leaders of mental health settings including forensic psychiatry, addiction facilities, acute care, intermediate and/or long term care hospitals, clinics, home care services, and various community healthcare centers.

## PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR APPLICANTS

Learners are encouraged to complete the non-nursing courses prior to admission or during the semester in which they are

scheduled. The workload of the program makes it difficult to take these courses at any other time.

## Year One Admission:

In addition to KPU's General university admission requirements including the undergraduate-level English Proficiency Requirement, the following program admission requirements apply.

- English 12 (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of B; or undergraduate equivalent with a minimum grade of C+; or ENGL 1100 level (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of C+
- Biology 12 (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of B; or undergraduate equivalent with a minimum grade of C+
- Chemistry 11 (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of B; or undergraduate equivalent with a minimum grade of C+
- Pre-calculus 11 or Foundations of Math 11 (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of B; or undergraduate equivalent with a minimum grade of C+

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Once students have received a conditional offer of admission and before final admission to the BPN program is granted, students must submit the following:

- Criminal record check through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Criminal Records Review Program
- Current standard first aid certificate
- CPR level C certificate
- Any other specified conditions of admission prior to the date specified in the offer of admission letter

**Note:** Immunization records are not required until placement in a clinical or practice course, and prior to registration. This will be enforced by the appropriate department prior to the time of registration.

## SELECTION OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Only students who meet all of the program's admission requirements as outlined above will be considered for admission. Meeting the criteria does not guarantee admission into the program. Admission to the program will be made through an established process that includes the selection of twenty (20) high school applicants and twenty (20) post-secondary applicants.

### High School Applicants

High school applicants will be selected using the highest cumulative percentages from the English, mathematics, chemistry and biology courses required for admission. High school students will be offered conditional acceptance based on interim grades. Final grades must be equal to or greater than interim grades or acceptance may be withdrawn.

### Post-secondary Applicants

Students who have a minimum of 24 eligible undergraduate post-secondary credits with a minimum GPA of 2.33 qualify under this category. Twenty (20) students with the highest CGPA from a recognized post-secondary institution will be selected.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All documents in support of an application for admission must be submitted by November 30th for Summer (May) applicants. Applications for which documentation is not received by these deadlines will be considered abandoned.

For more information about the admission process, visit [www.kpu.ca/admission](http://www.kpu.ca/admission).

## CONTINUANCE REQUIREMENTS

Learners in the program must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.33 with no grade lower than C in all required courses, including electives.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students admitted to Year One are required to complete a minimum of 125 credits of course requirements.

### Semester 1: Individuals and Their Health

Learners will explore the personal meaning of health, complete health assessments, and counsel individuals on health maintenance. They will examine select theoretical and conceptual frameworks addressing caring, mental health, and the role of the RPN in working with individuals. Health will be understood as a resource for living affected by social determinants. In contrast to emphasizing diagnoses and deficiencies, the learner will emphasize the therapeutic use of self and self-awareness in working with a client to improve their health by focusing on their potentials.

#### All of:

PSYN 1100	Individuals and Their Health	5 credits
BIOL 1160	Anatomy and Physiology I	4 credits
ENGL 1100	Introduction to University Writing	3 credits
PSYC 1100	Introduction to Psychology: Basic Processes	3 credits

### Semester 2: Families and Their Health

Learners explore the concepts of family and family health using a broad definition of family, individuals within these units, and various family theories. These are studied in relation to the developmental conflicts associated with stages of growth, development, and losses within families. Challenges such as growth and development of families and of relationships of strangers to families will be explored. The effect of health challenges on the family and the individual within it will also be studied.

#### All of:

PSYN 1200	Families and Their Health : Psychiatric / Mental Health Nursing	5 credits
ANTH 1100	Social & Cultural Anthropology	3 credits
BIOL 1260	Anatomy and Physiology II	4 credits
ENGL 1204	Reading and Writing about Genre: An Introduction to Literature	3 credits

### Semester 3: Groups and Their Health

Learners will examine the stages of groups. Roles, relationships, challenges, and interventions for groups will be explored applying various theories. Students will apply select theories of group dynamics in co-leading small heterogeneous and homogeneous groups composed of persons experiencing mental health challenges. They will experience the role of the RPN in

working through stages such as forming, norming, storming, and performing.

**All of:**

PSYN 2101	Groups and Their Health: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	9 credits
PSYN 2120	Pharmacology and Other Therapeutics: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3 credits
SOCI 1125	Introduction to Society: Processes and Structures	3 credits

**One of:**

FINA 1170	Introduction to Film Photography	3 credits
FINA 2270	Digital Photography	3 credits

**One of:**

ANTH 2142	First Nations Cultures of Canada	3 credits
CRIM 2330	Psychological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour	3 credits

### Semester 4: Acute Care

Learners will study and practice within the many forms of acute care to work with clients to maintain, restore, or improve the health of people in communities.

**All of:**

PSYN 2201	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing: Acute Care as Community	8 credits
ANTH 2163	Culture, Health and Well-Being	3 credits
WOMN 2200	Footsteps of the Crone: Creative Teaching & Learning	3 credits

### Semester 5: Community Health

In the fifth semester, learners will study and practice within the many forms of community and will apply community development models to work with communities to maintain, restore, or improve the health of people in communities. They will have practice in a variety of communities, including eldercare homes, retirement villages, community psychiatric and forensic units and prisons.

**All of:**

PSYN 3100	Community Health: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	7 credits
PSYC 3920	Aging	3 credits
WOMN 3100	Conceptual Traps & Health Care	3 credits
PSYN 3120	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing: Health Care Economics, Leadership and Management	3 credits

### Semester 6: Environment, Global Problems and Health

Learners will apply nursing theory in identifying health challenges related to sources of environmental pollution. They will conduct assessments and epidemiological analysis of relationships among environment and health. Learners will engage in policy analysis and short- and long-term planning with families, groups, and communities. Health-related agencies will be the settings for clinical practice.

**All of:**

PSYN 3200	Global Problems and Health	7 credits
PSYN 3220	Issues in Mental Health Nursing	2 credits
PSYN 3230	Psychiatric/Mental Health: Nursing Research	3 credits
PSYN 3240	Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis	3 credits

### Semester 7: Capstone Consolidation

Learners will practice in a variety of settings to integrate learning from previous nursing and non-nursing courses. They will work in small teams in the community providing psychotherapeutic care to individuals, families, and groups. Learners establish working contracts with their clients and provide therapeutic care in their nurse-client partnership. This will include advanced skills in interventions related to counselling, psychotherapy, or case management.

**All of:**

PSYN 4100	Capstone Course: Psychiatric / Mental Health Nursing	7 credits
PHIL 3010	Health Care Ethics	3 credits
SOCI 3345	Social Policy in Context	3 credits

### Semester 8: Preceptorship

Learners participate in a preceptorship of their choice, based on availability of preferred placements. They will increase knowledge and skills to develop independence and confidence as a practitioner in the field of psychiatric/mental health nursing.

**Required:**

PSYN 4200	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing: Preceptorship	10 credits
-----------	--	------------

### Additional Requirements

In addition to the requirements stated above, students must complete two additional undergraduate electives (3 credits each).

### CREDENTIAL AWARDED

Upon successful completion of this program, students are eligible to receive a **Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (BPN)**.