

**OPEN STUDIES
TO ENTER BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NURSING
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY, WELLNESS AND HEALTH**

UPDATED: APRIL 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the [Academic Calendar](#) for admission requirements.
- Open Studies provides you with an opportunity to:
 - Explore topics of interest to help you determine which program is right for you.
 - Start taking courses that count towards another program, prior to being admitted to your goal program.
 - Take upgrading courses, if needed, in addition to post-secondary level courses.
 - Take any course for which you have the pre-requisites, and which are not restricted to a specific program.
- Check the admission requirements for your goal program in the [Academic Calendar](#).
- **NOTE:** With the exception of English and Electives, courses must be completed within two years of starting the Bachelor of Science Nursing program in order to be accepted for credit.

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- **Fall** term (September through December)
- **Winter** term (January through April)
- **Spring** term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- **Summer** term (July through August): Summer term is an optional (for Open Studies) condensed term. Course offerings are very limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- For Fall or Winter, the maximum course load is:
 - 5 post-secondary courses
 - OR 2 upgrading courses and 2 post-secondary courses
 - OR 1 upgrading course and 3 post-secondary courses
 - OR 3 upgrading courses
- For Spring or Summer, the maximum course load is:
 - 2 courses, regardless of whether they are upgrading or post-secondary level.
- We encourage you to find the best course load for you to be successful in your courses and your program! Open Studies is very flexible and you can choose a course load that matches your goals and the demands of your life.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Complete an [RPL application form](#) and provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

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REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	COMPLETED	
YEAR 1 COURSES				
ENGL 219	Essay Writing and Critical Reading	ELA 30-1	Required course for BScN students.	
KNSS 200	Structural Anatomy		Credit for NURS 215 if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum grade of C+ is achieved • The course is completed within 2 years of starting the BScN program This course is reserved for Kinesiology students until the middle of July. If there is still space available after that, any student will be able to register.	
STAT 251	Introductory Statistics	Math 30-1 or Math 30-2	Credit for NURS 304 (2 nd year course) if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum grade of C is achieved • The course is completed within 2 years of starting the BScN program 	
INDS 205	Indigenous Peoples in Canada		Required course for BScN students. Some sections will be restricted to specific programs; you will not be eligible to register in these sections.	
Elective			Any 3-credit course that transfers to the University of Alberta. See guide.	
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IMPORTANT NOTES

Completion of any of the above courses is neither a requirement nor an advantage in gaining admission to the Bachelor of Science Nursing program, except to the extent that they may affect your GPA. Taking these courses in advance will not shorten the length of the program, but it will lighten your course load.

ELECTIVES

Refer to [this link](#) for a chart of possible electives. Please note this list is not exhaustive – if you are hoping to take a course that is not listed, please contact the Student Connect Centre for confirmation.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Admission to the Bachelor of Science Nursing program is competitive and requires the following:

1. Applicants must meet the minimum admission requirements, [found here](#). Students can be considered for conditional admission as long as they have a plan in place to complete the minimum requirements before the program starts.
2. Applicants must complete the CASPER assessment (Snapshot is not required) and achieve a minimum score. As CASPER does not share scores with applicants, we do not share the minimum required score. You will be advised if you were successful or not by the admissions department in early Spring.
3. Applicants who meet the two requirements above will have their GPA calculated as of March 1st. This means that Winter term classes will not be included. Your GPA will not be re-calculated as you complete additional courses.

The GPA calculation for Conditional Admission will be calculated according to one of the following:

- 18 post-secondary credits including all credits from the most-recently completed term plus the best grades from the next most recent term.
- Applicants with fewer than 18 post-secondary credits will have their GPA calculated using all post-secondary credits plus the credits from the *most recent* semester from high school using the best grade(s) from the following subjects: Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30, Math 30-1 or 30-2 and ELA 30-1 to reach 18 credits.
- Applicants with no post-secondary credits as of March 1st will have their GPA calculated using 20 high school credits from the following subjects: Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30, Math 30-1 or 30-2, ELA 30-1. If any of these courses are in progress at the transcript submission deadline, the highest level completed will be used.

Note: Post-secondary credits will be used in the Conditional Admission GPA calculation before High School credits, regardless of when the post-secondary credits were taken. Upgrading courses taken at a post-secondary institution are considered high school credits, NOT post-secondary, and will be assigned a value of 5 credits.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca