

APPENDIX D

Comparative Analysis of Canadian NP Educational Program Curriculum

This chart was developed to demonstrate similarities and differences in curriculum in NP programs across Canada. The information for this chart was obtained through response from email requests to NP program faculty and from program websites. We would like to thank those who assisted in the collection of this data.

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) Advanced Nursing Practice Framework defines advanced nursing practice (ANP) as an umbrella term that maximizes the use of in-depth nursing knowledge and skill in meeting the health needs of clients (2002). Within the framework five core competencies are listed as essential for practice. Broadly speaking, these competencies are:

- Research,
- Leadership,
- Collaboration,
- Change agent, and
- Clinical.

The CNA has also developed core competencies for nurse practitioner (NP) practice (2005). These competencies are in the area of:

- Health Assessment and Diagnosis,
- Health Care Management and Therapeutic Intervention,
- Health Promotion and Prevention of Illness, Injury, and Complications, and
- Professional Role and Responsibility.

In our comparison of NP educational programs' curriculum we first looked at curriculum which address the core ANP competencies. These core courses are listed on the chart as ANP courses and we found that they cover the topics of:

- Nursing Theory,
- Roles and Issues of ANP, and
- Research.

We also looked at courses, which address the NP core competencies. These courses are listed as core NP practice courses and we found that they cover the topics of:

- Advanced health assessment,
- Health promotion,
- Critical thinking/diagnostic reasoning,
- Pathophysiology,
- Advanced pharmacology, and
- Management of acute and chronic health conditions across the lifespan.

The exact title of courses may not appear, but a more generic term is used, such as Pathophysiology. The titles for practice courses have not been included in the listing of courses.

Summary of findings:

The intent of the development of this chart was not to take an in depth look at the content of NP courses offered by colleges and universities, but instead to gain a broad understanding of the types of courses which are offered and to understand if they are generally aligned with the ANP and NP core competencies. An assumption was made that the course titles reflected the content of the course. The content of a course titled Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics was assumed to include information on therapeutics related to NP practice, for example.

Review of the course titles of NP programs reveals consistency in all colleges and universities across Canada among courses that address NP core competencies. The majority of NP programs are at the master's level and offer either a post-master's or master's degree upon completion. However, the master's and post-master's programs offer separate courses in nursing theory, research and the role of the NP. The post-diploma/post-baccalaureate programs do not offer separate courses in nursing theory or research, however there is a separate course on the role of the NP.

Although most courses offer separate course titles for practice courses, these titles are not included. They were excluded so that we could limit the comparison to theory courses.

Program	Total Credit Hours	Core ANP Courses	Core NP Practice Courses (excluding practice hours/practicum)	Total Clinical Hours	Credential Granted
Aurora College	32	Roles and issues	1.Health assessment 2.Pathophysiology 3.Pharmacology 4.Community health promotion 5.Family health promotion 6.Advanced clinical decision making I 7.Advanced clinical decision making II	810	PHC NP Certificate
Centre for Nsg. Studies		Roles and issues	1.Health assessment 2.Pathophysiology 3.Pharmacology 4.Community health promotion 5.Family health promotion 6.Advanced clinical decision making I 7.Advanced clinical decision making II	892	PHC NP Diploma
SIAST	40.5	Foundations of advanced nursing practice	1.Health assess 2.Clinical assessment & intervention 3.Child health 4.Women's health & newborn 5.Clinical drug therapy 6.Advanced pharmacotherapeutics	370 (Will move to 600 in future)	PHC NP Advanced Certificate

NP courses

Athabasca	33	Foundations of advanced nursing practice	1.Advanced nursing practice children 2.Advanced nursing practice women 3.Advanced nursing practice adults 4.Advanced nursing practice older adults	600	Advanced Graduate Diploma/MN
COUPN	Varies	Roles and responsibilities of nurse practitioners	1.Pathophysiology 2.Advanced health assessment I & II 3.Therapeutics in primary health care I & II	611	PHC NP Post Baccalaureate Certificate
University of Ottawa	34 PHC/NP 55 Specialty NP	1.Nursing Theories 2.Statistics 3.Research Methods 4.Primary Health Care 5.Intervention Design or Thesis	1.Pathophysiology 2.Advanced Health Assessment I & II 3.Therapeutics in Primary Health Care I & II 4.Roles and Responsibilities of Nurse Practitioners	884	PHC NP Certificate MScN
Dalhousie University PHC/NP	30	1.Health Care System Policy Analysis 2.Advanced Practitioner Role Development	1. Primary Health Care Nurse 2. Practitioner Practice with the Elderly 3. Pharmacotherapeutics for Nurse Practitioners 4. Mental Health Issues for Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners Practice 5. Working with Special Populations 6. Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Practice with Adults 7. Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Practice with Childbearing Women and Families 8. Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Practice with Infants, Children, and Adolescents	750	BScN &/or Diploma of PHC NP studies
Dalhousie University AC/NP	36	1.Philosophical and methodological 2.Issues in Knowledge and Research	1.Theory/Practice I: Nursing of Adults/Community/Maternal Child/Mental Health/Families with Ill Children 2.Theory/Practice II: Nursing of Adults/Community/Maternal 3.Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice		MN

		3.Health Care System Policy Analysis Social 4.Organization of Nursing Knowledge 5.Advanced Practice Role Development	4.Pharmacotherapeutics for Nurse Practitioners 5.Advanced Health Assessment		
U of Manitoba	39	1. Special topics in nursing research 2. Acute Care Management 3. Foundations of advanced practice nursing	1. Health care in advanced practice nursing 2. Health care for advanced nursing practice I (Prenatal through Adolescence) 3. Health care for advanced nursing practice II 4. Applied physiology/ pathophysiology for nurses 5. Health assessment in advanced nursing practice 6. Community health nursing: Assessment of aggregate needs 7. Pharmacology	800	MN FNP/PC
U of Toronto	33 ACNP		1. Advanced health assessment and clinical reasoning 2. Pathophysiology 3. Therapeutics (pharmacology) 4. Advanced nsg practice in caring for clients and families I 5. Adv. nsg. practice in caring for clients and families II	730	MN/post master's diploma Acute care NP
U of Alberta	33/36	1. The nature & development of nursing knowledge 2. Family health and wellness theoretical and measurement issues for research & practice 3. Statistics in nsg research 4. Professional issues in ANP	1.Advanced health assessment and applied pathophysiology, adult 2. Advanced health assessment and applied pathophysiology, children 3.Advanced perinatal physiology 4.Pharmacotherapeutics 5. Selected topics in individual family health nsg (adult) 6. Community & population health assessment 7. Living with chronicity	400-600	MN PHC NP Acute care NP

		5.Community health: practice & research perspectives			
U of BC	54	1.Theoretical and critical thinking in nsg 2. Conceptual knowledge in nsg practice 3. Nursing & the delivery of health care 4. Nursing. Research 5. Statistics 6. Roles & regulations for NP practice	1. Pathophysiology 2. Advanced health assessment across the lifespan 3. Pharmacological management in health & illness 4. Primary care 1 5. Primary care 2 6. Primary care 3	750	MN FNP
U de Moncton	45	1. Théories en science infirmière 2. Méthodologie de la recherche 3. Tendances dans les soins	1. Thérapeutique en soins 1 2. Thérapeutique en soins 2 3.Évaluation de la santé 1 4.Évaluation de la santé 2 5. Physiopathologie avancée 1 6. Physiopathologie avancée 2 7. Soins de la santé primaires	700	MN PHC NP
U of New Brunswick	55	1.Quantitative research 2.Qualitative research 3.Statistics 4.Nursing theories 5.Roles and issues in NP practice	1.Advanced health assessment, health promotion & diagnostic reasoning 2.Advanced pharmacotherapeutics 3.Advanced pathophysiology 4.Management of Adult I 5.Management of Adults II 6.Management of paediatrics 7.Community health	700	MN PHC NP
U of	54	1.Advanced	1.Body and mind in health and illness (pathophysiology)	800	MN FNP

Victoria		nursing knowledge 2.Experiences of health, illness and healing 3.Context of health and health care 4.Nursing ethics 5.Research	2.Pharmacological interventions 3.Integrated PHC theory & practice I 4.Integrated PHC theory & practice II		
McGill U	60	Information not available		980	MN Neonatal NP
Memorial U	51	1.Research in nursing I: quantitative methods 2.Philosophical & theoretical foundations of nursing 3.Program development in nursing 4.Research in nursing II: qualitative methods 5.Advanced practice issues and role development	1.Nursing individuals and families through life transitions 2.Nursing therapeutics for individuals and families 3.Clinical decision making 4.Adult acute care nursing specialty 5.Mental health/ psychiatric nursing specialty	596	Adult Acute Care/Mental Health NP

NP courses

U of Calgary	34	1.Nurse practitioner practice issues and role integration 2.Philosophical foundations for advanced nursing practice 3.Health research methods Qualitative designs & analysis 4.Substantive theory 5.Health research methods quantitative designs 6.Applied statistics for nursing research	1. Advanced pathophysiology and therapeutics 2. Pharmacotherapeutics 3.Advanced health assessment 4.Nurse practitioner practicum I 5. Nurse practitioner practicum II 6. Nurse practitioner practicum III 7. Nurse practitioner practicum IV	720	MN Acute Care NP Post MN PHC/NP
Universite Laval		Information not available		910/980	MN Acute care cardiology/nephrology
Universite de Montreal	45	Information not available		910/980	MN Acute Care Cardiology/nephrology
UNBC	51	Information not available			MN/FNP
BCIT	40	Information not available			