Specialized Nursing Program for Family Practice/Primary Care Registered Nurses at George Brown College

Are you, or is someone you know, a Registered Nurse (RN) currently practicing or aspiring to practice in a Primary Care setting? If so, you will be interested to know that George Brown College has a new Family Practice/Primary Care nursing certificate program for RNs. This new two-semester, predominantly online program, is aligned with federal and provincial governments’ goals for establishing high performance health care teams across the country, ensuring all professionals practice to their full scope within a collaborative practice model to achieve more efficient and effective client-centred primary care.

Current evidence points to the benefits of collaborative team work in terms of client outcomes and job satisfaction. You will have the opportunity to learn about and from other professionals and practice the skills of an intercollaborative team approach within an interprofessional team-based clinical environment. You will explore and analyze the workings of our health-care system, develop competencies related to health promotion, primary prevention and chronic disease management, and apply best practices related to quality management and e-health.

With a postgraduate certificate in Family Practice/Primary Care Nursing you will be able to:

1. Appraise the role and scope of the Registered Nurse in Primary Care.
2. Integrate appropriate and relevant theories, concepts and frameworks into collaborative client-centred practice.
3. Promote and maintain health, and manage acute/chronic disease across the lifespan, within a collaborative client centered Primary Care setting.
4. Critically analyze and apply research to promote best practices for both nursing and health team interventions within a Primary Care setting.
5. Advocate for clients and the health-care system as a member of the health care team.
6. Apply Program Planning and Evaluation, and Quality Management principles to improve outcomes for clients and the health-care delivery system.

“Congratulations! This new educational program is timely – RNs in primary care are needed as one of the everyday entry points to meet the needs of Canadians and the health-care system. The potential for reducing wait times and improving access to care is significant. RNs are crucial to a family practice team’s achievement of better screening and health promotion, early detection, and chronic disease management. The objectives of this course are well aligned with CNA’s Primary Care Toolkit, a comprehensive resource for accessing information and resources on evidence-based care.”

Lisa Ashley RN CCHN(C), MEd/I.A. ICSC(C), M.Éd.
Nurse Consultant, Nursing Policy Canadian Nurses Association/
Infirmière conseillère, Politiques de soins infirmiers Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada

We invite you to be a part of this new and exciting program now being offered. There are a number of ways for you to find out more:

• Call Sheilagh Callahan (Program Coordinator) today at 416-415-5000 ext. 3017
• Visit georgebrown.ca/familypracticenursing
• To read more information on this program, please visit georgebrown.ca/S415_info/
• Register online at georgebrown.ca/infosessions
Family Practice/Primary Care Nursing Program

OUR PROGRAM

- Two-semester intensive program
- Students interact within a technology-rich environment, courses are predominantly online
- Students are required to come to the College 2 weekends (2 days in late August and 2 days in early December) in first semester for clinical skills labs and testing
- Clinical placement consists of 192 hours in a primary care setting in second semester. Placement site is negotiated with Faculty in compliance with course objectives

The Family Practice/Primary Care Nursing certificate program will enhance the practice competencies of the primary care RN to provide comprehensive care to individuals and families across the lifespan within family health team/primary care contexts and settings. Current research and relevant theoretical perspectives provide the foundation of study for interprofessional family-centred care. The theory and clinical courses build on entry-to-practice nursing competencies and are focused on family practice and primary care specialty areas. Application of theoretical knowledge and skills is gained by providing care to individuals and families in a family health team or other primary care setting where members work together to provide efficient and effective team-based care. Students interact within a technology-rich environment, participating in online discussions with classmates, collaborating on research projects, and engaging in ongoing reflective practice exercises as part of their educational experience.

The knowledge and skills gained through this program will help ensure that RNs have the competencies needed to practice to full scope and participate fully as contributing members of interprofessional intercollaborative family health/primary care teams across Ontario and Canada.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The applicant is a Registered Nurse (RN) currently practicing or aspiring to practice (e.g. new graduate, novice nurse) in Primary Care. The applicant is currently registered or is eligible for Registered Nurse Annual Registration from an approved College or Nursing Association.

Applicants are required to have current CPR certification and current background police check.

“I have achieved an attitude of confidence that nursing can indeed make a difference as part of the needed interdisciplinary health care team. It is my belief, the Family Practice Nursing Program mentors the mind, spirit and professional capabilities to build meaningful careers in primary health care.”

Joan King RN BScN Ed
Primary Care Nurse, Loyalist Family Health Team

COURSES

SEMESTER 1

NURS4070 Evolution & Impact: Family Practice Nursing & Canada’s Health-Care System (online)
NURS4071 Assessment & Management Part 1 & 2 (online & face-to-face)
NURS4072 Using Research to Enhance Family Practice Nursing (online)
NURS4073 Quality, Risk & Workflow Management (online)

SEMESTER 2

NURS4074 Leadership & Advocacy (online)
NURS4075 Clinical Practicum

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Sheilagh Callahan, Program Coordinator
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Telephone: 416-415-5000 ext. 3017

“I am very excited to endorse George Brown Colleges’ new and innovative program designed to prepare registered nurses to work in Family Practice. This program is long overdue. Nurses in Family Practice/Primary Care have used their basic nursing knowledge and gained ‘on the job’ experience in order to become experts in areas such as chronic disease management, patient education, prenatal and paediatric care, geriatrics, and counselling. With the increased number of Family Health Teams and clinics dedicated to primary care, nurses are in high demand to work in this interdisciplinary setting. Until now there has not been a specific program dedicated to preparing our nurses for this dynamic and exciting area of nursing. I congratulate George Brown College for providing this program and hope it will inspire the introduction of similar nursing programs across Canada.”

Ann Alsaffar, RN
President, CFPNA
(Canadian Family Practice Nurses Association/Association des infirmières canadiennes en médecine familiale)