

April 21, 2016

Dear Bachelor of Nursing student,

Changes to program regulations for Athabasca University's Bachelor of Nursing programs and the prerequisite requirements for several Nursing courses will come into effect on September 1, 2016, subject to NEPAB (Nursing Education Program Approval Board) approval.

These changes may have varying degrees of impact on students in the Post-LPN and Post-RN Bachelor of Nursing programs, so we wished to bring this to your attention now.

The Faculty of Health Disciplines is making these changes now in order to:

- ensure the minimum grade point average for awarding BN degrees is aligned and consistent with that of other baccalaureate nursing programs; and,
- provide students in the Post-LPN BN program with additional preparation in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacology in order to be successful in clinical courses and when writing the challenging NCLEX-RN exam to become a Registered Nurse.

The attached Frequently Asked Questions section explains further how these changes may apply to you. Please read it carefully. All new students admitted to the program follow the new Program Regulations effective September 1, 2016.

To review the new regulations, please follow this link to [Post-LPN BN Program Regulations](#) in the AU Calendar.

Also, please go to the [online course syllabi](#) for NURS 250, NURS 316, NURS 317, NURS 400 and all Professional Practice (Clinical) courses (NURS 401, NURS 435, NURS 437, NURS 441). **Effective September 1, 2016, the minimum pass mark for all Nursing courses will be C (minimum 64%), and all Professional Practice (Clinical) courses will require an average grade threshold calculation of 3.0 as a prerequisite.**

The process for requesting a clinical placement is also changing as of May 1, 2016, effective for the Fall 2016 semester. Please refer to the [Post-LPN BN Professional Practice \(Clinical\) Preparation Guide](#) for details on this new process.

As a consequence of these changes, you may need to update your program plan in Degreeworks. A sample program plan is included in the FAQ and your individual program plan may vary.

We hope this information helps you with these important program changes. After reading the information provided, if you have specific questions, please contact an advisor via e-mail: bnadvisor@athabascau.ca.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if I have not completed (not received a successful final grade) all my non-nursing, support and option courses by September 1, 2016?

You will automatically be aligned to the new program regulations effective September 1, 2016, for the Post-LPN BN program. **You will have seven years from this date to complete all course requirements for your degree**, which means the latest you can complete your program is December 31, 2023. Transfer credits (that fulfill a course requirement under the new program regulations) will be grandfathered. You are subject to the prerequisite requirements of the courses at the time of registration. To review the Program Regulations effective September 1, 2016 please [click here](#).

On September 1, 2016, I will have successfully completed all non-nursing, support and option courses. I am registered in or have completed NURS 250, but have not registered in or completed NURS 400. What impact does the new regulations have on me?

You will continue to follow the current program regulations (the regulations in place when you originally enrolled). You continue to be subject to the course prerequisite requirements in effect at the time of your registration.

What happens if I have registered in or completed NURS 400 on September 1, 2016?

To help prepare you for success in writing the NCLEX-RN exam, it is highly recommended that you register in the following, in addition to your degree courses: BIOL 235, NURS 316 and NURS 317.

What happens if I register in a course after the registration deadline of August 10, 2016?

You are subject to the course prerequisite requirements at the time of registration. For example, if you register in NURS 400 after August 10, 2016, the course available will be NURS 400 Revision 5 and you must meet the prerequisite requirements of this course.

I was planning to register in NURS 250 for September 2016. Will I still be able to do this?

The last date you can register in NURS 250 Revision 4 will be August 10, 2016. Registration after this date will be for NURS 250 Revision 5, and you will be aligned to the Program Regulations effective September 1, 2016.

I plan to sign-up/request NURS 401 on September 1, 2016, for a Winter term start. My GPA is 2.8. Can I do this?

On September 1, 2016, you will be subject to the prerequisite requirements for NURS 401. If your GPA does not meet the required prerequisite, you must speak with a BN Advisor to discuss your options.

I am requesting registration in NURS 250. Why is the GPA calculation that I see different than what I am being told by my advisor?

To receive approval to register in NURS 250 Revision 4, students will need to meet the prerequisite requirement of an average grade threshold calculation of a 3.00 in the **non-nursing, support, and option courses that fulfill course requirements**. This will **include all AU course grades and all transfer credit grades** used to fulfill course requirements. **Effective August 11, 2016**, to receive approval to register in NURS 250 Revision 5, students will need to meet the prerequisite requirement of an **average grade threshold calculation of a 3.0 in the Cluster A courses** that fulfill course requirements. This will **include all AU course grades and all transfer credit grades** used to fulfill course requirements.

I am currently in the pre-stages of applying to the Post-LPN BN program. How do the regulations changes impact me? Upon acceptance into the Post-LPN BN program, you will be aligned to the [Post-LPN BN Program Regulations effective September 1, 2016](#).

SAMPLE PROGRAM PLAN

The example is offered to help you develop your program plan for 2016 onward. Your plan may differ from the one below. This is, however, the **highly recommended order** in which to take courses. For each course, review the prerequisite requirements and ensure you have met the requirements prior to registering in the course; prerequisite requirements can be viewed in the [online course syllabus](#) for each course. If you require assistance with your plan, please contact the Bachelor of Nursing Program Advisors at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca.

Post-LPN Bachelor of Nursing Degree Program (120 credits) EXAMPLE ONLY

Term <i>(terms may not be consecutive)</i>	Post LPN BN Program Plan 2016 <i>(while this is an example ONLY, it is the highly recommended order in which to take courses)</i>
1 Cluster A	ENGL Requirement PHIL Requirement BIOL 235
2 Cluster A	MATH 215/216 BIOL 235 (2nd semester of course) PSYC 290
3 Cluster A	Support Course: Humanities/Social Science/Science (300/400) HLST 320 NURS 316
3 Cluster A	NURS 317
4 Cluster B	NURS 250 NURS 328 NURS 436
5 Cluster B	NURS 400 NURS 324 NURS 322
6 Cluster B	Nursing Option NURS 435 or NURS 437, or NURS 401
7 Cluster B	NURS 438 NURS 435 or NURS 437, or NURS 401
8 Cluster B	NURS 432 (4 credits) NURS 434 (4 credits)
9 Cluster B	NURS 435 or NURS 437, or NURS 401
10 Cluster C	NURS 441