

November 18, 2016

**This letter contains critical information for all students in the Post-LPN BN program.
Please read the entire document.**

Dear Post-LPN Bachelor of Nursing student:

We appreciate that the past few months may have been stressful for some of you in the Post-LPN BN program because of changes being made to the program. We wish to take this opportunity to summarize the changes (most of which have been communicated with you previously) to ensure you have the information to progress successfully through your program.

Program Regulations

Program Regulations have been revised, and the new Post-LPN Program Regulations are available at fhd.athabascau.ca/programs/undergrad/lpn-bn/regulations.php. The updated regulations include changes to course requirements and special regulations.

If you are a Cluster A student, your program has already been realigned to meet new Program Regulations. An email was sent to all Cluster A students from AU's Office of the Registrar earlier this fall saying your program would follow the new Program Regulations. (If you do not recall receiving this email, please go to myAU "Manage Your Record" to ensure the email address on file with Athabasca University is correct, as this is the university's primary way of communicating with you.)

If you need further information or assistance, contact your BN advisor at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca.

Course Requirements

To augment students' preparation for clinicals and for writing the challenging NCLEX-RN exam required to become a Registered Nurse, courses in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacology have been added to the Post-LPN BN program.

If you are a Cluster A student and are aligned to the Program Regulations effective September 1, 2016, your program has already been realigned to meet these new course requirements.

If you are a Cluster B or Cluster C student, and are NOT aligned to the Program Regulations effective September 1, 2016, and have not yet taken NURS 400, please contact your BN advisor at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca to clarify the courses in which you need to register. The prerequisite for NURS 400 has changed (details are available at athabascau.ca/syllabi/nurs/nurs400.php).

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Course GPA Prerequisites

As of September 1, 2017, your Program GPA will be used to meet course prerequisite requirements for all students. In April 2016, you were informed that your average grade threshold would be used as of September 1, 2016. This was subsequently revisited, and effective September 1, 2017, your Program GPA calculation will be used.

If you are a **Cluster A student**, the Program GPA prerequisite for NURS 250 is increasing to 3.3 (from the current 3.0), effective September 1, 2017. The last date to register in NURS 250 before the Program GPA prerequisite increases is August 10, 2017.

For all students, Program GPA prerequisites are being set at 3.0 for all clinical courses (NURS 401, 435, 437 and 441), effective September 1, 2017. The last date to register in these courses before the Program GPA prerequisite requirement is implemented is August 10, 2017.

Your Program GPA is displayed in your DegreeWorks profile at myAU. You can also calculate your Program GPA using the Office of the Registrar's GPA Calculator at registrar.athabascau.ca/gpa/gpa.php. To learn more about what is included in your Program GPA, read the AU Grading Policy available at ous.athabascau.ca/policy/registry/undergraduategradingpolicy2002.pdf.

We appreciate that times of transition like these are always challenging, and understand that this may present difficulties. We recommend you read the enclosed *Frequently Asked Questions* for additional clarification about how these program changes may affect you.

If you require further assistance, please contact the BN Advisors at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca. After you have communicated with the BN Advisors, if you still have unanswered questions, please feel free to contact Dawn Mercer Riselli, Program Director, Clinical Affairs, at driselli@athabascau.ca. Or, if you prefer, you may contact the AU Ombuds Office at ombuds@athabascau.ca to discuss your situation.

We believe that with a clear understanding of the issues and changes, you will have the information upon which to make decisions and to set the best path for your education. I am always available to speak with you, either by email at margaret.edwards@athabascau.ca or by telephone at 1-888-500-3055, if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Margaret Edwards, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor
Faculty of Health Disciplines



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if I want to register in NURS 250 on August 11, 2017, or later?

You will be granted permission to register in NURS 250 only if you have met all prerequisites, which will include a Program GPA of 3.3 or higher. Contact your BN Advisor at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca about what action to take if you believe you may not meet these prerequisites.

My Program GPA shows as 3.1 in DegreeWorks and I plan to have Cluster A courses completed by June 30, 2017. Will I be able to register in NURS 250?

You will be granted permission if you register on or before August 10, 2017, since you have met the current prerequisite Program GPA of 3.0. From August 11, 2017 onward, you will require a Program GPA of 3.3, and will need to re-take courses, as necessary, to increase your Program GPA. Please use the GPA Calculator at registrar.athabascau.ca/gpa/gpa.php and contact your BN Advisor at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca if you have questions about the best plan for your individual situation.

I plan to put my name on the sign-up list for NURS 437 on September 1, 2017, to start the course in the Winter 2018 term. My GPA is 2.8. Can I do this?

You will need to delay this plan and re-take courses as necessary to increase your Program GPA to a minimum of 3.0. Please use the GPA Calculator at registrar.athabascau.ca/gpa/gpa.php and contact your BN Advisor at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca to determine options available to you.

I will only have NURS 441 left to complete in Winter 2018. Can I still sign up on September 1, 2017, if my GPA is below 3.0?

You will need to delay this plan and re-take courses as necessary to increase your Program GPA to a minimum of 3.0. Please use the GPA Calculator at registrar.athabascau.ca/gpa/gpa.php and contact your BN Advisor at bnadvisor@athabascau.ca to determine options available to you.

Will exceptions be granted for students nearing completion of the program to avoid the impact of these changes?

In order to provide time for students to adjust their plans, the implementation of the GPA changes was deferred for one year, from September 1, 2016, to September 1, 2017. Given the importance of these changes, no further extensions or exceptions are possible.

Will program extensions be granted so students can increase their GPA?

The Program GPA requirement must be met within your seven-year program completion timeframe. You may reapply to your program in order to gain more time to meet the requirements, but if you do, you will be subject to the program regulations at the time of application and some courses may be stale-dated.

I am in the pre-stages of applying to the Post-LPN BN program. How do the regulations changes affect me?

Upon acceptance, you will follow the Post-LPN BN Program Regulations stated at fhd.athabascau.ca/programs/undergrad/lpn-bn/regulations.php and must meet all course prerequisites.

Should I expect any more changes?

Nursing is a dynamic profession and AU is committed to ensuring the Post-LPN BN program prepares students well in their quest to become RNs. At this time, no further changes are anticipated.