

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the BN(Collaborative) Program?

This is a four year basic nursing education program leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing. A fast-track option is also available. The mission of the program is to prepare nurses to meet the health care challenges of today and tomorrow.

### Where is the program offered?

The four year BN (Collaborative) Program is offered at three sites:

Western Regional School of Nursing, Corner Brook  
Centre for Nursing Studies, 100 Forest Road, St. John's  
Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Nursing, St. John's

The fast-track (or two-year) option is offered at two sites:

Western Regional School of Nursing, Corner Brook  
Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Nursing, St. John's

### What is the Fast Track Nursing Program?

Students who have completed a degree from a recognized University and have a 3.0 Grade Average can apply for the Fast Track Nursing Option. This is where they complete their Nursing Degree in 6 semesters over two years rather than 8 semesters over four years. They need to have demonstrated the ability to maintain a full course load prior to acceptance into the Fast Track Nursing Program.

## What are the admission requirements for the BN(Collaborative) Program?

### **Four year BN (Collaborative) Program:**

- Must meet the admission/readmission requirements of Memorial University
- High school science courses must include: ***Biology 2201 & 3201 or equivalent,***

***Chemistry 3202 or equivalent***

***University Biology 1001 and 1002 and Chemistry 1010, 1800 or 1810 may be used to fulfill the science requirements.***

- Must have a high school diploma as certified by the provincial Department of Education
- Advanced mathematics and courses that enhance your reading comprehension; writing; and computer skills are recommended.

### **BN (Collaborative) Program Fast Track Option**

***Applicants with an undergraduate degree (given priority)***

- Must meet the general admission requirements of Memorial University
- Must have achieved a degree grade point average of 3.0
- Must have completed:
  - o *Statistics 2500 or equivalent, or Education 2900*
  - o *Biochemistry 1430 or equivalent*
  - o *Biology 3053 (Microbiology) or equivalent*

### **Applicants with advanced standing:**

- Must meet the general admission requirements of Memorial University
- Must have achieved a degree grade point average of 3.0
- Must have completed:
  - o *Statistics 2500 or equivalent, or Education 2900*
  - o *Biochemistry 1430 or equivalent*
  - o *Biology 3053 (microbiology) or equivalent*
  - o *Psychology 1000*
  - o *Six credit hours in English*
  - o *Three credit hours in Business*
  - o *Three credit hours in Philosophy 2800-2820 series or Religious Studies 2610*
  - o *Three credit hours Sociology or Anthropology*
  - o *Three credit hours in Political Science*
  - o *Six credit hours in electives (any subject area)*

### How are applicants selected?

Admission is on the basis of competition for a limited number of seats. Selection of candidates is based on academic performance, and other criteria considered suitable for the professional practice of nursing.

In addition to the regular seats, up to three additional seats per year are available for students of aboriginal ancestry who meet the admission requirements.

### What is the minimum average grade accepted?

Admission is competitive. The average for acceptance depends on the quality of the applicant pool, therefore, the higher your average, the greater your chance of acceptance.

### How many students are accepted to your school each year?

We accept approximately 50 students at Western Regional School of Nursing, 50 at Memorial University and 120 at Center for Nursing Studies. We accept 8 students into the Fast Track Option at Western Regional School of Nursing and 24 students into the Fast Track Option at Memorial University School of Nursing in St. John's. When applying to the program you are asked to indicate site preference on your application.

### What is the deadline date for admission? Is there any flexibility?

The deadline for applications is March 1 and students are accepted for the Fall Semester only. There is no flexibility in this date. Applications have to be completed in order for the student to be considered for admission. Therefore please ensure that all documents have been submitted (ie: Application Form, Self Appraisal and two reference letters).

### Who can I ask for reference letters?

You are asked to submit two references from people who know you well. They cannot be relatives. They can be school teachers, Church Official, employers, etc. It would be a good idea for you to give them a stamped, addressed envelope so they can send their reference letter directly to the Office of the Registrar in a timely manner. Only applicants with completed files will be eligible for the selection process.

### Do you base admission to the program on attributes other than academic average?

You are asked to complete a Self Appraisal discussing why you are interested in Nursing. You are also asked to submit two reference letters. However it is important to note that academic grades are the major criteria for selection.

### What types of scholarships are available once a student is accepted to your program?

Please click [here](#) to view scholarship information.

Memorial University of Newfoundland Calendar at [www.mun.ca](http://www.mun.ca)

Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland & Labrador: [www.arannl.nf.ca](http://www.arannl.nf.ca)

### Do you offer work terms or study abroad options?

No, there are no work terms. However, students complete a rotation called “Preceptorship” where they can do a clinical course outside our hospital. They can request placement within or outside the province. One community course can also be completed outside the Corner Brook area.

### What types of jobs are available with a Nursing Degree?

Nurses can choose to work in the hospital, community, administration, or research. Areas within the hospital include but are not limited to: Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Surgery, Medicine, Mental Health, Genetics, Rehabilitation, Palliative Care, Intensive Care Unit, or Emergency. There are also non-traditional opportunities such as Forensic Nursing, Cruise Ship Nursing and Travel Nursing available.

### Is it better to do four or five courses to gain admission into the Nursing Program?

If you are looking to increase your average to improve your chances of acceptance, we suggest you take four courses. However, if you are applying for fast track you have to demonstrate the ability to handle a five-course workload. If you are graduating from high school and your average is not quite where it needs to be, we suggest you do first year university courses, increase your average and then apply to the BN (Collaborative) Program. Acceptance will then be based on your university grades.

### Once a student has been accepted to the Nursing Program, what subject areas/course will they be taking?

Some of courses include, but are not limited to:

Introduction to Nursing, Therapeutic Communications, Psychomotor Competencies, Health Promotion, Anatomy and Physiology, Health Assessment, Healthy Aging, Women and Childbearing Families, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Community Nursing, Mental Health, Research, Middle/older Adults, Leadership, Children and Adolescents, Young Adults, Professional Practice, Complex Care and Community courses.

### Is the program considered to be difficult?

The program is challenging. Upon graduation, a nurse carries a high degree of responsibility and accountability. The BN (Collaborative) Program prepares you

to deal with those challenges. Support is available from faculty and peers to guide you along the way. The transition to independence practice is gradual.

### How does your nursing program compare to that of other universities?

We receive numerous positive comments from health care providers outside the province (especially during the Preceptorship course). Many of our graduates have reported that their employers like to hire Newfoundland educated Nurses which is very encouraging.

### What type of unique facilities/services do you have? (ie: labs/equipment etc)?

We have a Computer Laboratory in the Library, study halls and students lounges with computer access. We have two fully equipped clinical labs for teaching, demonstrations and practice. There are several break-out rooms for clinical conferences and small group work. There are two full size classrooms and a smaller classroom with computers, internet access, VHS and DVD capabilities and Infocus equipment. There is a student residence on site where students live in the same building that they complete their Nursing Program.

### What types of help services do you have for Nursing students?

Students are offered Supplemental Instruction Sessions. All first year students are assigned to a Faculty Advisor. They can also avail of all Sir Wilfred Grenfell College services.

### What is the typical student teacher ratio for your program?

Approximately 50:1 in the classroom; approximately 8:1 for clinical and 18:1 for Preceptorship.

### Who is the contact person within your department for student inquiries?

Marilyn Borden [nursingschool@swgc.mun.ca](mailto:nursingschool@swgc.mun.ca) (709-637-5000 ext. 5490)  
Angela Targett [nursingschool@swgc.mun.ca](mailto:nursingschool@swgc.mun.ca) (709-637-5000 ext. 5489)

### What do your students say to encourage other students to pursue studies in Nursing?

We have a low student-instructor ratio. We have a Residence on site with clinical occurring in the same building. The program has highly qualified instructors. Students are offered opportunities to attend Conferences, Lunch and Learn sessions, and become members of School Committees. Faculty and students often get together for Pot Luck and go for walks as part of a Student-Faculty Walking Club.

### What is the application process?

Applicants must complete the BN (Collaborative) Program application form. In addition, students who have not registered for courses at Memorial University for either of the two immediately preceding semesters must also complete a general application for admission to the University.

### Where do I get the application forms?

MUN applications can be obtained on-line @ [www.mun.ca](http://www.mun.ca)

BN (Collaborative) Program or nursing applications are not yet available on line. They can be obtained from:

Office of the Registrar  
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College  
Corner Brook, NL  
A2H 6P6

Office of the Registrar  
Memorial University, St. John's, NL  
A1C 5S7

These completed applications and supporting documents must be returned by March 1 to:

*Office of the Registrar  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 5S7*

## Do I need to have a CPR Course , First Aid or a Certificate of Conduct? CPR

It is **MANDATORY** for nursing students to always be certified and up-to-date in the following required level of CPR: **CPR for Health Care Providers (HCP)** (offered by **St. John Ambulance**); **or Level HCP (Healthcare Provider)** (offered by the **Canadian Red Cross**)

(1) St. John Ambulance website: [www.sja.ca/ns](http://www.sja.ca/ns) - **select Courses and Training At Work – select Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - CPR for Health Care Providers (HCP)**

(2) Canadian Red Cross website: [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) – **In Your Community: select Atlantic Canada – select Newfoundland and Labrador– First Aid Services – Workplace CPR & First Aid – Workplace CPR/AED - Level HCP (Healthcare Provider)**

## **FIRST AID**

**MANDATORY** for nursing students to always be certified and up-to-date in the required level of First Aid: **STANDARD FIRST AID**

(1) St. John Ambulance website: [www.sja.ca/ns](http://www.sja.ca/ns) - **Standard First Aid + CPR for Health Care Providers (HCP)**

(2) Canadian Red Cross website: [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) - **In Your Community - click on the map – select Newfoundland and Labrador– select First Aid Services**  
**\*\*Branch locations and contact information are available on each website.**

## **CERTIFICATE OF CONDUCT**

All students are required to have an up-date Certificate of Conduct on file at the Nursing School.

## What Residence accommodations are available?

*Monaghan Hall Residence, Corner Brook*

*Telephone: (709) 637-5235*

*Fax: (709) 637-5443*

*Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook*

*Telephone: (709) 637-6266*

*Fax: (709) 639-8125*

[www.swgc.mun.ca/swgc-res](http://www.swgc.mun.ca/swgc-res)

*St. John's Campus*

*Telephone: (709) 737-7590*

*Fax: (709) 639-8125*

[www.housing.mun.ca](http://www.housing.mun.ca)

### What are the costs per semester?

Students accepted into the Nursing Program will be required to pay the same [tuition and fees](#) as all other University students. In addition, they will be required to pay for uniforms, shoes and laboratory supplies.

### Are there sources of Financial Assistance?

Information on Canada Student Loans can be obtained from:  
[www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid](http://www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid)

For more contact:

BN Consortium Office  
(709) 737-6871      Fax: (709) 737-2337  
[nursingadmissions@mun.ca](mailto:nursingadmissions@mun.ca)

Western Regional School of Nursing  
(709) 637-5489      Fax: (709) 637-5161  
[nursingschool@swgc.mun.ca](mailto:nursingschool@swgc.mun.ca)

Centre for Nursing Studies  
(709) 777-8171      Fax: (709) 777-8177  
[gpiercey@cns.nf.ca](mailto:gpiercey@cns.nf.ca)

Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Nursing  
(709) 777-6272      Fax: (709) 777-7037  
[lenac@mun.ca](mailto:lenac@mun.ca)



## [Math Placement Test](#)

NURS 2004 Pharmacology and Nutritional Therapies is offered in year 2 of the program. An acceptable level of mathematical proficiency is required as a prerequisite to ensure accuracy in calculating medication dosages in this course. One of the pre-requisites that must be satisfied before taking NURS 2004 is the achievement of a score of **at least 50** on the Mathematics Placement Test (MPT). If this score is not achieved students must successfully complete Math 102F before taking NURS 2004 Pharmacology and Nutritional Therapies.

Students who already have already taken 3 credit hours in university mathematics (excluding Statistics 2500) and have achieved at least a 50% in that course **do not** have to take the MPT.

### **When must I take the MPT?**

To ensure sufficient time to develop the required mathematical proficiency, should remedial work be necessary, you **MUST** complete the Mathematics Placement Test no later than the start of the Fall Semester in which you are admitted to the nursing program. You can take the MPT only once.

### **What is the MPT?**

The Math Placement Test (MPT) is used to determine knowledge of mathematical skills required for entry into a various math courses as well as being a prerequisite for NURS 2004 Pharmacology and Nutritional Therapies in the Bachelor of Nursing (Collaborative) Program. The MPT consists of 100 multiple-choice questions, broken down into five questions each in 20 topics/areas. These topics range across all types of mathematical topics, from elementary topics to more advanced topics that are currently taught in the provincial school system. The use of a calculator is not permitted on the MPT. Further information about the MPT including sample questions can be found at <http://www.math.mun.ca/>. At the Mathematics Department home page click on Undergraduate Studies at the main menu then click MPT (Mathematics Placement Test).

### **How do I take the MPT?**

Any student who is (conditionally) accepted to the university can register for the MPT in the same way you register for any other course. If you check the Course Offerings on the web you will see the available times to write the MPT (MATH 1MPT). Take careful note of the date, time and location of the test as you register.

If you are still a High School student in Newfoundland and Labrador you are strongly recommended to write the MPT in June. You need to register to take the MPT by visiting the Memorial University Math Department website at <http://www.math.mun.ca/> no later than early May ( the exact date varies per year).

For students accepted to the St. John's sites who come from Newfoundland High Schools and who miss the above date and all others accepted to the St. John's sites offering the BN (Collaborative) program, you must take the MPT that is scheduled for the first week

of September. You can register for this writing in the same way you register for your fall courses. It is listed in the registration booklet as Math 1MPT.

For students at the Corner Brook site, any Newfoundland High School students who miss the above date and all others accepted to the Corner Brook site must take the MPT that is scheduled during the first week of September at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. Contact the General Office at Western Regional School of Nursing, 709- 637-5489, for more information.

**How much does the MPT cost?**

The Mathematics Placement Test (MPT) is free.

**How do I find out the results of the MPT?**

Students are expected to achieve a score of at least 50 on the Math Placement Test.

In St. John's, often, a list of all students, by student number, and their scores is posted on the corridor wall next to the main entrance, adjacent to HH-2011, in the Mathematics Building (Henrietta Harvey Building).

All students may also find their MPT score at <http://www.math.mun.ca/>. At the Mathematics Department home page click on Undergraduate Studies at the main menu then click MPT (Mathematics Placement Test). There will be a list of results at the end of the page. Choose the date on which you wrote the test.

**What if the student does not make the pass mark on the MPT?**

If you are a St. John's student and you do not meet the required mark on the MPT you must upgrade your mathematical skills by taking the Mathematics Skills Program (Mathematics 102F). Mathematics 102F is a non-credit course that is offered in Fall, Winter and Spring semesters. It has a workload and class time equivalent to a three credit hour course and it carries the same tuition fees as a three credit hour course. You must successfully complete this course before you can register for NURS 2004 in Fall semester of year two of the BN(Collaborative) program.

Students are strongly encouraged to take Math 102F as soon as possible, i.e. the fall semester. However, any student who needs to take Math 102F as a sixth course in a particular semester should consult the Associate Director of your site as soon as you obtain your MPT results.

**What happens if I don't successfully complete Math 102F prior to year two of the BN(Collaborative) Program?**

Failure to successfully complete Math 102F, or the equivalent remediation program for Corner Brook students, in a timely fashion will result in a full year delay in your progression through the BN(Collaborative) program.

**How much work is involved with Mathematics102F?**

The workload is similar to any three credit hour course. The expectation is that each student taking Mathematics 102F will attend class three times a week (50 minutes each session) and does two hours of homework for every hour in class. This equates to eight to ten hours a week.