

University Education

Q: I am currently in the process of applying to the University of Toronto master's/nurse practitioner (child stream) degree program. Does the University of Toronto offer a primary health care program as well?

A: The University of Toronto offers a MN Nursing program in Administration, Clinical and Nurse Practitioner fields of study. The Nurse Practitioner field of study includes adult or child streams. The University of Toronto also offers a postgraduate anesthesia care diploma program for NPs already registered in the extended class with the College of Nurses of Ontario. The University of Toronto does not offer a primary health care nurse practitioner program.

Q. Are all Primary Care Nurse Practitioner programs equivalent in Ontario with regards to enabling extended class registration?

A: Nine universities participate in the primary health care NP program that is offered by Council of Ontario Universities Programs in Nursing (COUPN). More information is available at the website:

<http://np-education.ca/index.php?fuseaction=authentication.welcome>.

Q: How much is tuition for primary health care NP programs? Can I do just my PHCNP or is the MN mandatory?

A: Tuition is set by each university. In regards to education, the PHCNP certificate is what the College of Nurses of Ontario requires for that specialty. Many NPs in PHC are also taking graduate nursing education programs. Employers in the future may be looking for Masters level preparation of NPs in all specialties. The following reference may be of assistance:

http://www.cno.org/Global/docs/reg/45025_fsExtendedclass.pdf

<http://www.cno.org/en/become-a-nurse/about-registration/approved-nursing-programs/np-programs/>

Q: Are there options for distance education master's programs for Certificate Primary Health Care NP's?

A: Yes, Athabasca University offers a distance education master's program in nursing (MN) that prepares NPs to provide primary/community health care.

Q: I am an RN who would like to becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Are there any provincial incentives to help, especially in communities that are in dire need of primary health care providers?

A: Grow Your Own Nurse Practitioner is an innovative program designed to help employers

recruit nurse practitioners. It is an initiative of Health Force Ontario. Funding is available to hire a nurse practitioner (NP) into a long-standing vacant position. Ministry funds allocated to a nurse practitioner position are used to sponsor a local registered nurse to obtain NP education. More information is available at: www.healthforceontario.ca.

Q: I am a nursing student with the goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner in neonatology. Will I be able to find employment in this field?

A: In Ontario, McMaster University offers a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner program. Neonatal NPs write the NP-Paediatric exam to become registered in the extended class with the College of Nurses of Ontario. Neonatal NP employment opportunities are primarily found in tertiary or academic hospitals, or hospitals that provide regional level three nursery care. Both Adult and Paediatric NP roles are well-established in hospital settings across the province. Certainly there are concerns about how these roles may be impacted by hospital budget constraints over the next few years. With an increasing focus on primary health care, the MOHLTC continues to establish FHTs, CHCs and NPLCs and fund NP positions. While these organizations have traditionally hired NPs with a primary health care focus, the addition of paediatric and adult specialty NPs to the team may be more common in the future. This would bring specific NP expertise to teams enabling them to meet the specialized needs of the patient populations they serve.

Q: I am a first year master's student and am looking to find a clinical placement with an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. How do I go about finding a preceptor?

A: Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is an old terminology and refers to NPs who work in a hospital setting. NPs with NP-Adult and NP-Pediatric specialties traditionally work in inpatient or ambulatory hospital settings as well as outreach hospital programs. For privacy reasons we do not enable access to our membership list. The College of Nurses of Ontario does provide access to nurses but you would have to determine if your request meets the CNO's established criteria. <http://www.cno.org/about/stats/requestforms.htm>. Your educational institution should have a list of preceptors who have agreed to mentor NP students in clinical placements.

Q: I would prefer to do a paediatric primary care program but my understanding is that in Ontario, paediatric NPs work mostly in acute care settings. Is this true? Could you explain the role of paediatric NP's in Ontario?

A: In Ontario the primary health care NP program encompasses the entire life span. There is no specific program for paediatric primary care NPs. As a graduate of the primary care program you could work in primary care and structure your role to focus on the paediatric client. The NP-Paediatric program is geared toward acute care of the paediatric population and graduates generally work in acute care settings. They may work in sub-specialties such as paediatric neurology and paediatric palliative care. In the future it may become more common for NP-Paediatric registered NPs to work in primary care settings.

Continuing Education

Q: I am an RN and I am interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner. I am wondering if it might be beneficial for me to attend the NPAO conference to learn about NP roles and for networking purposes.

A: Yes. Thank you for your interest in the NPAO annual conference. At the conference you will have the opportunity to connect with currently practicing NPs and to attend sessions to learn more about their roles in the four NP specialties.

Q: I am interested in the NP pharmacology online program. Do you have information on how I can access it?

A: Yes. For information about the NP pharmacology online program, go to the Member's Only section of the NPAO website <http://cefc.np-education.ca/>. NPAO members receive a 20% discount on the registration fee for this program.