ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

4-year Online (Part-time) LPN to BScN Program

1. When is the application deadline?

   The application deadline is **February 1, 2024**. Students must have registered and completed CASPer on or before this date as well.

2. How do I apply?

   You can apply by going to [Admissions Information](#) and following the steps to apply.

3. I have my LPN diploma from a school other than Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), can I apply?

   You must be licensed as an LPN in Nova Scotia but may have received your LPN diploma from any institution within Canada.

4. What documents are required other than my application?

   The Admissions Office requires your official LPN diploma transcript, CASPer test scores (takecasper.com), a copy of your current LPN license, confirmation of 1800 hours worked as an LPN in the last two (2) years (requires a letter of verification from employer), and official transcripts from all other post-secondary institutions attended. Along with the application, the required documents must be received by the deadline: **February 1, 2024**. If you have previously applied, you will need to resubmit this information and retake CASPer.

   NOTE: You require a minimum of 1800 hours (i.e., within the past two years of practicing as an LPN regardless of maternity leave or other leaves of absence from your employer). Should you have a leave within the past two years of LPN practice, please ensure your employer details this within a letter related to your last two years of practicing hours.

5. When will I find out if I am accepted? How do I find out?

   Admissions will send out offers in February. You will be notified by email whether you are accepted or not.

6. When would I start courses?

   Courses begin at the end of April or early May. The Pathway Year (Year 1) (April/May 2024 to end of April 2025) will be made up of the five pathway courses:
   - i. English (Undergrad)
   - ii. Statistics (Undergrad)
   - iii. Microbiology (Undergrad)
   - iv. NURS 264 (Nursing Pathway course)
   - v. NURS 265 (Nursing Pathway course)

7. Can I be granted transfer credits?

   Upon acceptance to the university, students may be assessed for transfer credits for non-nursing pathway courses (BIOL, ENGL & STATS) based on official transcripts submitted with your initial application. Transfer credits must be less than 10 years old to be considered. All transfer credits are granted through Academic Advising.

8.   How many courses do I take per semester in this online, part-time program?

Students are limited to a maximum of two courses per semester.

Due to curriculum progression requirements, students are not able to work ahead of the defined schedule between years 2 and 4.

9.   How much does it cost? When are payments due?

Fees for students in the program can be found on the StFX Financial Services website: https://www.stfx.ca/student-accounts

- Fees for the 3 undergraduate pathway courses (BIOL 115, STATS 101, ENGL 111) fall under the Per Credit Fee Schedule.
- Fees for the nursing pathway courses (NURS 265, NURS 264) and the remaining LPN-BScN courses (Years 2, 3, 4) fall under the Nursing Per Credit Fee Schedule.

10.   Can I apply for a student loan?

Yes, you can apply for part-time funding while in this 4-year online program through the Nova Scotia Student Assistance program. It is not a guarantee that you as an individual will qualify for funding.

11.   Will I be pre-registered in all my courses?

Yes, you will be pre-registered in all your courses once registration opens for the distance nursing courses in February and July each year if you have met the progression requirements.

12.   Are there any on-campus components within the 4-year part-time online program?

Yes, starting in Year 2, students will be required to come to campus for in-person labs.

There are in-person lab components to NURS 232 (Spring) and NURS 307 (Winter), as well as in-person Simulation (SIM) Labs for each clinical course (NURS 234, NURS 309, NURS 334):

SIM Lab requirements:

i.   The on-campus SIM Lab requirements will require you to be in Antigonish for approximately 1-4 days at various times each year. The purpose of the SIM Lab is to practice hands-on assessments and skills in a controlled setting. Dates will be communicated to you in advance of the SIM Lab.
ii.   SIM Lab Days occur adjacent to clinical courses (i.e., NURS 234, NURS 309, NURS 334).
iii.   Attendance is **mandatory** for SIM Days as they are a course requirement.

Additional Training:

Some students may need training in the Patient Chart System (Meditech) and/or IV Insertion prior to their clinicals. These can take place on campus. Efforts will be made to coordinate additional training with SIM Lab dates, however some students may need the additional training prior to Clinical/SIM Lab start dates, which may require a separate on-campus visit.

13. Is there a clinical component to the program?

Yes, there is a clinical component within the Distance (part-time) LPN-BScN Program. <mark>All the clinical placements are done within Nova Scotia, Canada.</mark>

You will be required to travel to clinical placements as it is not a guarantee that your clinical placement will be in or near your preferred location.

You are responsible for incurring the cost of travel and potential short-term accommodations for your clinical placement. If you are scheduled to complete your placement in the Antigonish/New Glasgow area during the Spring term (May-July), we may be able to secure a special rate to stay on campus. Please contact the Distance Nursing Office (distance.lpn@stfx.ca) for more information.

There are Group Clinical Placements (NURS 309, NURS 334) and Preceptored Clinical Placements (NURS 409, NURS 440).
i.   Group Clinical Placements are groups of 7-8 students with a designated StFX Nurse Educator.
ii.   For a Preceptored Clinical Placement, a student works 1:1 with a designated RN (Preceptor).
iii. NURS 440 is the final consolidation of your clinical placements. You are required to complete 440 working hours for this clinical placement. Therefore, you may require a leave of absence from your employer as you will work the schedule of your preceptor for approximately 2-3 months to complete the LPN-BScN Program's final clinical placement/course.

Important! **Nurse Educators and Preceptors are trained and employed by StFX for this role. You <u>cannot</u> appoint your own, nor can you request an individual clinical rotation in place of a group clinical.**

14. Can I request a specific clinical location?

In short, no, although you can submit a request for consideration. Submission of a request will not guarantee placement at your preferred location, but the Clinical Placement Coordinator will try to accommodate as best they can. Generally, it is easier to accommodate location requests for your final clinical consolidation (NURS 440), however, this is never a guarantee.

15. How are clinical placements decided?

There are a few variables concerning placements:

i.   **Nurse Educators:** There are a limited number of nurse educators across the province who work in the various departments in the NHSA hospitals. These educators work with groups of 7-8 students for their clinical group placements.

ii.   **Placement Coordination**:
      1. The Clinical Placement Coordinator uses HSPNet, a database program for arranging student clinical placements for StFX. HSPNet facilitates the placements of <u>all students</u> for <u>all nursing schools</u> across all Canadian provinces (except for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). Placement coordinators at each institution, work to confirm placements for their respective groups of students. As you can appreciate, this can be challenging, particularly when schools are vying for similar hospital wards (i.e., surgical, medical, obstetrical, etc.) during similar times of year.
      2. The health authority/hospitals/wards indicate to HSPNet if they can accommodate students, how many students, and if they have the staff to support students. This can change without warning given the complexities within hospital administration and while maintaining safe staff-to-patient care levels. Some hospital wards cannot accommodate certain clinical groups due to size (i.e., less patients/staff to students), thus limiting further clinical availability.

16. When do clinical placements get decided?

   While the Clinical Placement Coordinator can provide you with a general timeline for your clinicals, the exact dates (including shift time) and locations may not be confirmed until a few weeks before or even closer to your anticipated start date. This is due to the noted challenge of coordinating and securing nurse educators, preceptors, and placements that are required for your clinical.
   Please know that we are aware that many students have competing family and professional responsibilities, and we do work to secure placements as soon as we can. Unfortunately, there are variables outside of StFX's control that impede our receipt of information for all clinical placements in a timely manner.

17. What is the course map for the program?

   Please see the following chart for a map of the program. Clinical components are in green text.

4-year Online (Part-time) LPN to BScN Program

Dates	May to July	August	Sept to Dec	Jan to April
May to April **Pathway Year** (Year 1)	BIOL 115, STATS 101, ENGL 111, NURS 264, NURS 265 (total of 15 credits)			
Once a student successfully completes the Pathway Year (Year 1), they will progress into the LPN-BScN Program				
May to April **LPN-BScN** (Year 2)	**SEMESTER 4a** NURS 232* (In-Person Lab) (3 credits) NURS 233 (6 credits)	No classes	**SEMESTER 4b** NURS 231 (3 credits) NURS 234* (3 credits)	**SEMESTER 5a** NURS 307* (In-Person Lab) (3 credits) NURS 308 (6 credits)
May to April **LPN-BScN** (Year 3)	**SEMESTER 5b** NURS 306 (3 credits) NURS 309* (Clinical + SIM Days) (3 credits)	No classes	**SEMESTER 6a** NURS 332 (3 credits)	**SEMESTER 6b** NURS 333 (6 credits)
May to April **LPN-BScN** (Year 4)	**SEMESTER 7a** NURS 334* (Clinical + SIM Days) (3 credits) NURS 406 (3 credits)	NURS 406 ends in August	**SEMESTER 7b** NURS 408 (3 credits) NURS 409* (Clinical) (6 credits)	**SEMESTER 8** NURS 440* (Clinical) (15 credits)