

# **Bridging Program for Internationally Educated Nurses**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How is the program structured?**

The program consists of theory and clinical courses. All theory courses are offered part time, usually in the evenings and on weekends using Mohawks Online Learning Platform. While each course is different, you will be expected to participate in online discussions, classroom lectures, group projects and presentations and hands-on skill labs. Once you have completed all required theory courses, you will be eligible for clinical courses.

### **What do I need to get started in the program?**

You will need a Letter of Direction from the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), your immigration status and your language assessment (CLB). Contact the CNO at 1-800-387-5526 for a copy of “Registering as a Nurse in Ontario”.

### **What is a CNO Letter of Direction?**

Your Letter of Direction is based upon a CNO review of your documents and outlines the “elements of safe practice” you are required to complete. Mohawk College has courses that match these mandatory elements. Some courses match more than one element.

### **Can I begin the program if I don’t have a Letter of Direction? YES**

If you have submitted all your documents to the CNO, have had your English Assessment completed and meet the immigration requirements you may be granted a “conditional” acceptance into the program.

### **What does “conditional” acceptance mean?**

It means that you are eligible to enroll in only specified courses. These courses are outlined in your conditional acceptance letter and generally are standard courses required for all Internationally Educated Nurses.

**What if I apply as a Registered Nurse and the CNO tells me I must complete a baccalaureate degree?** We suggest that you reapply to the CNO as a Practical Nurse, also see “Important Information for IEN’s”.

**What if I have an assessment of my English but it is not the Canadian Language Benchmarks?** Only CLB or I-Celban are acceptable.

### **How can I improve my English and communication skills for the clinical setting?**

The English used in the Canadian health care system is an added skill and very different from other countries. CLB is just not enough to function effectively in the “language of medicine” so the courses are designed to continuously build upon your existing English. The program also offers additional workshops and supports during your studies. The program Effective Communication Skills specific to health care system is a requirement for success in the program and the number one requirement required by employers in Hamilton (Hamilton Training Advisory Board, 2005).

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## *Frequently Asked Questions about CLINICAL EXPERIENCE*

- 1. How will I find out my clinical placement?** If you are close to completing your courses you will receive in late November or early December information and an application form for clinical. Once received, we will contact you with more details.
- 2. Where will my clinical placement be held?** All supervised clinical placements are held in the Hamilton and Oakville areas. Preceptorship may take place within your community. In mid-February or early March your placement will be confirmed.
- 3. What is the format?** The supervised clinical experience is offered between April and August. Once approved you will be assigned to a group with a specific start date. Clinicals can be 8 or 12 hour shifts. During preceptorship, you work the shift of your assigned preceptorship.
- 4. Can I work during my clinical experience?** It is highly recommended that you do not work during your clinical placement.
- 5. What is the difference between preceptorship and supervised clinical experience?** With supervised, you will have a clinical instructor with you during your placement. During preceptorship, you work with a nurse as your mentor and guide.
- 6. What does clinical cost?** Clinical tuition is based upon the hours you are required to complete. The current range for supervised is between \$1000-2000 for preceptorship \$400-500.
- 7. Are there any additional cost or requirements.** Yes. You will be required to have a medical clearance, mask fit test, current BCLS and Police Checks.
- 8. Will there be meetings prior to clinical.** Yes. Closer to your scheduled placement a notice will be sent to you.