

Perioperative Nursing Program

Growing Canadian Perioperative Nurses with an ORNAC Approved Program

Supporting local and Canadian-made products extends far beyond our farmers and manufacturers – it also means championing specialty nursing programs built on Canadian standards. By investing in these programs, we're ensuring the future of healthcare is shaped by homegrown expertise, rooted in the values and needs of our communities. The Perioperative Nursing Program (PONP) at the Learning Institute for Healthcare Providers, Nova Scotia, is shaping the next generation of perioperative nurses, making sure they are ready for the unique demands of the Canadian healthcare system. As an ORNAC-approved program, PONP aligns with the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) Standards, Guidelines, and Position Statements, safeguarding quality, consistency, and credibility in perioperative education.

Why ORNAC approval is important:

- **Standardized Education:** Ensure consistent, evidence-based content nationwide, preparing learners for the realities of operating room (OR) practice.
- **Professional Credibility:** Approval enhances program recognition, positioning graduates as competent professionals committed to excellence.
- **Pathway to Certification:** Opening doors for career advancement and specialization.
- **Patient Safety and Advocacy:** Improved patient outcomes from emphasis on surgical conscience, aseptic practices, and patient-centred care.
- **National Recognition:** Qualifications are recognized across provinces, supporting career flexibility for nurses.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Regular evaluations keep PONP ahead of evolving perioperative standards and best practices.
- **Fostering Professional Identity:** ORNAC reinforces perioperative nursing as a highly specialized, valued profession, instilling confidence and pride in nurses.

PONP's Innovative Approach

The PONP utilizes a competency-based, conceptual learning methodology, integrating theory with real-life surgical scenarios. Learners progress through concepts, applying and combining them to handle diverse perioperative situations. This active, learner-centred approach fosters critical thinking and deeper clinical understanding, equipping graduates to meet the dynamic needs of perioperative patients.

Performance-Based Certification

Graduates receive a certificate confirming they meet defined competencies validated through hands-on application. Nurses

then enter specialty practice as an advanced beginner with foundational skills, which allow them to perform in predictable situations with minimal guidance and with support in rapidly changing situations.

Now is the time! Choose Canadian-made perioperative nurses who are backed by an ORNAC approved program. With ORNAC approval and an innovative design, PONP ensures graduates are ready to deliver safe, effective, and patient-centred perioperative care.

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References

- Nova Scotia Health Authority. (n.d.). *Perioperative nursing program*. Brightspace. <https://nshealth.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/15419/viewContent/135406/View>
- Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. (2023). *The ORNAC standards, guidelines, and position statements for perioperative registered nurses* (16th ed.). <https://ornac.ca/standards.phtml>



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