



# Perioperative Nursing/RN Advanced Certificate

## PLAR Candidate Guide

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

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### Prior learning credit options at Saskatchewan Polytechnic

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See [Get Credit for What you Know](#) for important information about all options to get credit for prior learning at Sask Polytech, including PLAR, transfer credit, Canadian Armed Forces credit, and equivalency credit.

### How to navigate this document

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This document contains links to other document sections or webpages. To return to where you were from another section in this document, press the *ALT* key and *left arrow* key at the same time. To return to this webpage from another webpage, close the other webpage or click back on the browser tab for this document.

### Contents of this guide

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This guide contains the following specific PLAR information and tools for this program

- A. [PLAR fees](#)
- B. [PLAR eligibility and options](#)
- C. [Dates when PLAR assessment is available](#)
- D. [Special directions for this program](#)
- E. [PLAR contact person](#)
- F. [Self-rating course outlines](#)

## A. PLAR fees

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Fees for PLAR challenges are set to cover our costs for consultation, assessment, and related administrative tasks. PLAR fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

The PLAR fees policy is subject to change for each new academic year. Please see the **Cost** section on the [PLAR webpage](#) for current fee information.

## B. PLAR eligibility and options

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To be eligible for PLAR you must consult with the [PLAR contact person](#) and be approved for PLAR assessment.

### Course prerequisites and corequisites

Some courses have one or more other courses that must be completed first (prerequisite) or at the same time (corequisite). See [course outlines](#) in this guide to identify any pre- or co-requisites for each course. Discuss with your [PLAR contact person](#) how to deal with courses with corequisites.

### Block assessment

Some programs may assess a cluster of courses together in one block, which may save you time and effort. Ask the [PLAR contact person](#) whether there are any block assessment options in this program.

## C. Dates when PLAR assessment is available

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PLAR assessment for this program is available from Sept 1 to June 15 in each academic year.

**All PLAR assessments must be completed by June 15 of each academic year.**

## D. Special directions for this program

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1. **Review** the [PLAR process and FAQs](#) and the information in this guide.
2. **Self-rate** your learning for each course using the [Course Outlines](#) in this guide.
3. **Consult** with the [PLAR contact person](#) for PLAR approval. Be prepared to provide your resume, course self-ratings (see [section F](#)), and a partially completed [PLAR application](#). If you are approved for PLAR, the contact person will sign your PLAR application and explain next steps.
4. **Register** for PLAR at [Registration/Enrolment Services](#) once you have signed approval on your [PLAR Application Form](#). The PLAR fee will be added to your student account.
5. **Finalize** an assessment plan with your assigned assessor.
6. **Complete** assessment before your PLAR registration expires.

## E. PLAR contact person

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Contact one of the Program Heads below to arrange a consultation **after** you have read this guide and [general PLAR information](#) and rated yourself for each course (see next section). Consultation may be by phone, online, or in person. Be prepared to provide your resume, course self-ratings, and a partially completed [PLAR application](#). If agreement is reached to go ahead with PLAR, the contact person will sign approval on your PLAR application and explain the next steps. Admission to the program is required before you can register for PLAR.

**Leah Lowe, Program Head**  
Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Regina Campus  
Phone: 306 – 775-7568  
Email: [mckerricherl@saskpolytech.ca](mailto:mckerricherl@saskpolytech.ca)

## F. Self-rating course outlines

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Clicking on a course code below opens a page where you can rate yourself on the knowledge and skills assessed for PLAR credit. For Arts & Sciences courses, clicking on the course code opens another PLAR guide. The [PLAR contact person](#) for this program will refer you to another person to discuss PLAR for courses delivered by Arts & Sciences or another program/department.

COURSE CODE	COURSE NAME	Delivered by another department/program
<a href="#">ANAT 266</a>	Anatomy Review	
<a href="#">CLIN 221</a>	Perioperative Nursing Practice/RN	
<a href="#">NURS 202</a>	Psychomotor Skills Lab	
<a href="#">NURS 244</a>	Surgical Environment	
<a href="#">NURS 245</a>	Perioperative Nursing Process/RN	
<a href="#">NURS 246</a>	Surgical Equipment	
<a href="#">NURS 247</a>	Perioperative Nurse Anesthesia/RN	
<a href="#">NURS 248</a>	Surgical Procedures	

**ANAT 266 - Anatomy Review**

You will briefly review human anatomy and anatomical terminology in the context of perioperative nursing.

**Credit unit(s):** 1.0  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Corequisites:** NURS 246  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>None</b>
1. Identify the components of medical terminology.			
2. Identify the organization of the human body.			
3. Identify the structure of the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems.			
4. Identify the structure of the respiratory and circulatory systems.			
5. Identify the structure of the digestive and endocrine systems.			
6. Identify the structure of the urinary and reproductive systems.			

**CLIN 221 - Perioperative Nursing Practice/RN**

You will participate in a 10-week clinical experience that is limited to specific pre-selected agencies. Within the role of the RN, you will integrate all aspects of the program into the delivery of patient care.

**Credit unit(s):** 27.0  
**Prerequisites:** NURS 202  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	<p><b>Competent</b></p>	<p><b>Learning</b></p>	<p><b>None</b></p>
1. Assess the client holistically.			
2. Formulate a plan of care based on the client's potential and actual problems.			
3. Implement the plan of care maintaining standards of perioperative nursing practice in the scrub and primary circulator role.			
4. Assist the anesthesiologist with anesthesia.			
5. Evaluate the client's responses to nursing actions and modifies the plan of care accordingly.			
6. Consistently employ a range of skills to communicate with others.			
7. Conduct nursing actions in a professional manner.			

**NURS 202 - Psychomotor Skills Lab**

You will implement the theory and principles of perioperative nursing in the performance of basic skills. Selected psychomotor skills will be demonstrated and you will practice them in a laboratory setting.

**Credit unit(s):** 2.0  
**Prerequisites:** NURS 248  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>None</b>
1. Perform the psychomotor skills related to the scrub role.			
2. Perform the psychomotor skills related to the circulator role.			
3. Perform the psychomotor skills related to surgical asepsis.			
4. Perform the psychomotor skills related to safety in the perioperative setting.			

**NURS 244 - Surgical Environment**

You will be introduced to the principles of asepsis, sterilization, disinfection, and infection prevention through the implementation of perioperative nursing care standards. You will learn basic technical skills necessary to prepare yourself and the patient for a surgical procedure.

**Credit unit(s):** 4.0  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>None</b>
1. Describe the surgical environment.			
2. Explain infection control.			
3. Describe disinfection in the surgical environment.			
4. Discuss sterilization in the surgical environment.			
5. Explain the principles of aseptic Techniques.			
6. Discuss preparation of the sterile surgical team members.			
7. Discuss preparation of the surgical patient.			

**NURS 245 - Perioperative Nursing Process/RN**

You will apply the nursing process to perioperative nursing care. You will discuss leadership, examining communication skills related to the perioperative setting. You will examine professional responsibilities related to both the registered nurse (RN) scrub and circulating roles in perioperative nursing. You will relate these perioperative principles to the RN role in surgery centres.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Corequisites:** NURS 244  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>None</b>
1. Examine the barriers to perioperative communication.			
2. Describe safety practices for perioperative nursing.			
3. Examine perioperative RN scrub and circulating roles.			
4. Examine perioperative registered nurse (RN) professional responsibilities.			
5. Apply the nursing process adapted to perioperative RN care.			
6. Discuss leadership in the perioperative environment.			
7. Explain perioperative registered nursing care in surgery centers.			
8. Apply perioperative nursing principles in developing a plan of care for a simulated clinical scenario.			



**NURS 246 - Surgical Equipment**

You will learn how to identify, arrange, use, and care for surgical instruments and accessory surgical equipment. You will learn to safely prepare and handle supplies for surgical wound closure, perform a surgical count, and manage surgical specimens.

**Credit unit(s):** 2.0  
**Prerequisites:** NURS 244, NURS 245 or NURS 250  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Describe the preparation of a surgical theatre for use.			
2. Identify names and uses of surgical instruments.			
3. Care for surgical instruments.			
4. Describe the preparation of accessory surgical equipment for use in a surgical procedure.			
5. Describe the guidelines for arranging sterile instruments and supplies for a surgical procedure.			
6. Describe the preparation and use of supplies for surgical wound closure.			
7. Describe the safe handling of sterile sutures, sharps, and surgical instruments.			
8. Outline the procedure for completion of surgical counts.			
9. Outline the management of surgical specimens.			
10. Apply the guidelines for the use of surgical equipment to simulated clinical situations.			

**NURS 247 - Perioperative Nurse Anesthesia/RN**

You will use the principles of nursing care of patients during induction and emergence from anesthesia, including emergency procedure protocols.

**Credit unit(s):** 2.0  
**Prerequisites:** NURS 245  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>None</b>
1. Describe methods of anesthesia.			
2. Explain anesthesia nursing considerations.			
3. Explain nursing responsibilities in the management of emergency procedures during surgery.			
4. Apply the principles of perioperative nursing/anesthesia to simulated clinical situations.			

## NURS 248 - Surgical Procedures

You will focus on the nursing actions to be performed by the scrub and circulating nurse during surgical procedures and the specialized care requirements of pediatric, geriatric and morbidly obese patients.

**Credit unit(s):** 4.0  
**Prerequisites:** ANAT 266  
**Corequisites:** NURS 247, NURS 214  
**Equivalent course(s):** none

<p><b>Use a checkmark (✓) to rate yourself as follows for each learning outcome</b></p> <p><b>Competent:</b> I can apply this outcome without direction or supervision.  <b>Learning:</b> I am still learning skills and knowledge to apply this outcome.  <b>None:</b> I have no knowledge or experience related to this outcome.</p>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Differentiate common incision sites of the abdomen.			
2. Employ the skills and perioperative nursing principles related to the scrub and circulator roles for general surgery.			
3. Employ the skills and perioperative nursing principles related to the scrub and circulator roles for gynecologic procedures and obstetrics.			
4. Employ the skills and perioperative nursing principles related to the scrub and circulator roles for orthopedic surgery.			
5. Employ the skills and perioperative nursing principles related to the scrub and circulator roles for genitourinary surgery.			
6. Employ the skills and perioperative nursing principles related to the scrub and circulator role for ENT surgery.			
7. Employ the skills and perioperative nursing principles related to minimally invasive surgery.			
8. Apply the principles of perioperative nursing care for pediatric patients.			
9. Apply the perioperative nursing care for geriatric patients.			
10. Apply the principles of perioperative nursing care for a patient with specialized nursing care requirements.			
11. Apply the surgical procedures guidelines to simulated clinical situations.			