Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (SCBScN)
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why should I consider the new SCBScN program for my nursing education? What sets this program apart from other programs?**

   As a student in the new SCBScN program, you’ll be exposed to the most contemporary practices in nursing education, you’ll have the opportunity to learn about nursing first-hand during Year 1, and you’ll benefit from the combined strengths of two leading post-secondary institutions.

   Whether you’re coming from high school or another post-secondary institution, our new SCBScN program offers you the opportunity to begin your nursing education immediately. Nursing courses, including experiential learning, are offered in the first year. This gives you the earliest possible opportunity to work directly with patients and to learn about the range of options open to registered nurses.

   Our curriculum is based on a contemporary assessment of population needs for health care and trends in delivery models. For example, because registered nurses use computers in their practice and in accessing computer-based health information in their work life, the curriculum includes a course in health informatics. There’s also a course in rural nursing that focuses on the health needs of our elderly citizens.

   This program also stands out because it benefits from the combined resources and faculty expertise of both SIAST and the University of Regina. SIAST has a national and international reputation for excellence in nursing education, and the University of Regina is a research leader in several health-related fields.

2. **Why is this new SCBScN program being offered?**

   SIAST and the University of Regina are collaborating on this program at the request of the Province of Saskatchewan. The creation of this new program increases the educational options for students and facilitates the expansion of baccalaureate nursing education in Saskatchewan to 700 seats, with 350 seats allocated to the SCBScN program.
3. **What does SIAST bring to the new SCBScN program?**

SIAST has more than 40 years of experience in the delivery of quality nursing education. Nursing faculty are experienced in a range of programming, including baccalaureate education and advanced education for registered nurses (RNs). By teaching in both classroom and clinical practice settings, faculty can help students link theory with practice. The SIAST Nursing Division also is a leader in reaching students where they live through various delivery modalities and technological innovations.

4. **What does the U of R bring to the new SCBScN program?**

The University of Regina faculty bring expertise in delivering baccalaureate-level education and contribute by providing courses in the arts, sciences, informatics and Aboriginal health. The university will be hiring new nursing faculty members that will complement the knowledge and expertise of the SIAST faculty and contribute to the university’s national reputation as a leader in research in areas such as Aboriginal health, gerontology and pain management.

5. **Is this program approved? By whom?**

As required by Saskatchewan legislation, every new or revised nursing education program must be approved by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses’ Association (SRNA), the professional regulatory body for nursing. Approval of the SCBScN program by the SRNA is pending.

The Senate of the University of Regina approved the program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) on June 9, 2010.

6. **Who grants the degree? What institutions are identified on the parchment?**

The University of Regina has the authority from government to grant a degree in nursing. The University of Regina parchment will indicate that the nursing degree has been awarded by the University of Regina in affiliation with SIAST.

7. **Are the graduates of the new SCBScN program required to take the Canadian Registered Nurse Exam (CRNE) in order to become a RN?**

Yes. The curriculum has been designed to prepare graduates with competencies agreed to by regulatory bodies across Canada. The CRNE is designed to test those competencies. Graduates of the program are required to pass the CRNE in order to obtain registration from the SRNA to practise as a registered nurse.
8. **Will the new SCBScN program be recognized by other universities if I wish to take graduate studies in nursing?**

Graduate programs in nursing require that you have graduated from an approved baccalaureate nursing program and have successfully passed the CRNE exam. In addition, students will need to meet individual graduate application requirements such as a GPA, personal statement and resume submission.

9. **What are the admission requirements?**

**High School Admission Requirements**
Applicants who have completed or are in the process of completing Grade 12 with fewer than 24 attempted credit hours of approved post-secondary education will be considered based on the following criteria:

- English Language Arts A30 * See note 1
- English Language Arts B30 * See note 1
- One of Math A30, Math B30, Math C30, or Calculus 30** See note 2
- Biology 30
- Chemistry 20 (Chemistry 30 is recommended)

* Note 1: Applicants may substitute one of Francais Fransaskois A30/B30 or Francais Immersion 30 for English Language Arts A30 or B30. Applicants from Fransaskois and French Immersion programs may also substitute the equivalent subjects taught in French for those listed above.

** Note 2: Revised Mathematics Curriculum Requirement (Effective July 1, 2013)
One of Foundations of Math 30, or Pre-Calculus 30 (Replacing Math A30, Math B30, Math C30); or Calculus 30.

Students must have a minimum grade of 70% on each of the above required courses. Students applying from other Canadian provinces or from other countries will need to present equivalent courses. In addition, all students will need to meet the English Language Proficiency requirements both of the University and of the program.

**Post-secondary Admission Requirements**
Applicants who have attempted 24 or more credit hours of approved post-secondary education will be admitted based on the following criteria:

- Successful completion of either each high school course (listed above) or a post-secondary equivalent or higher than equivalent. If prerequisites were completed at the high school level, a high school transcript must be provided in addition to post-secondary transcripts.
• A minimum of 65% UGPA on ALL post-secondary studies completed
• If transferring from another Nursing program, a minimum UGPA of 65% and a positive recommendation on a clinical reference form.

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Requirements
The language of instruction at the University of Regina is English. All applicants to the University of Regina must therefore demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency in the English language. The following will be accepted as satisfactory evidence:

• Canadian and U.S. high schools:
  Completion of grades 11 and 12 English, in sequence, as part of two full academic years, in a high school using a provincially- or state-accredited Canadian or U.S. curriculum or a grade of 80% OR a grade of 80% or better in a grade 12 provincially-examined English course, as part of one full term of study.

• English as a Second Language or ESL:
  Successful completion of the English as a Second Language (ESL 050) program or a minimum average score of 55 on the ESL placement exam both offered through the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Regina. For further information, please contact English as a Second Language Office, Room 114, South Residence, University of Regina, Regina, SK, S4S 0A2, Tel: (306) 585-4585 esl@uregina.ca.

• English-Language Post-Secondary:
  Successful completion of at least 24 credit hours (University of Regina degree level equivalent) in an approved English-language post-secondary institution, including at least 6 credit hours in humanities or social science subjects and with a grade point average of 60.00% or equivalent.

• GCSE/IGCSE/GCE:
  GCSE/IGCSE/GCE Ordinary Level English, English Language, or English as a Second Language with minimum grade of 'B' or GCE A/AS/AICE Level English or English Language with minimum grade of 'C'.

• Other Tests:
  One of the following tests will also be accepted. Test results must be received, by the Admissions Office, directly from the testing service.

In addition to the university's standard ELP requirements, students who meet the University's ELP requirement via an exam must achieve the following exam standards:

• CanTEST: A minimum score of 4.5 in each of Listening, Reading and Writing and a 5.0 or higher in Speaking
• CAEL: A minimum score of 70 with a minimum sub-score of 70 in Speaking and minimum sub-scores of 60 in all other components
• IELTS: An overall band score of 7.0 with a 7.0 or higher in Speaking
• MELAB: A minimum score of 85 with a minimum sub-score of 3+ in Speaking
• TOEFL: Internet-based (iBT): A minimum overall score of 90 with minimum sub-scores of 20 in Reading and Writing, 26 in Speaking and 22 in Listening.
• TOEFL: Paper-based: A minimum overall score of 580 with a minimum sub-score of 50 in each of Listening and Speaking, and a minimum score of 5.0 in each of Writing and Reading

10. **Are there any additional requirements following acceptance into the program?**

All successful applicants must provide the results of a criminal record check, proof of Standard First Aid and CPR HeartSaver "C" AED or equivalent, and an up-to-date immunization record prior to the commencement of the program.

11. **Where will the program be offered?**

The program will be offered in Regina at SIAST Wascana Campus and the University of Regina campus sites and in Saskatoon at SIAST Kelsey Campus. The possibility of delivering the program at other locations is being explored.

12. **How many seats will be available?**

There will be 200 seats in Regina and 150 seats in Saskatoon.

13. **Will you be considering out-of-province applicants to the program?**

Yes. Out-of-province applicants will need to meet the same requirements as Saskatchewan applicants. Out-of-province course equivalents will be used to meet the admission requirements of the new SCBScN program.

14. **Will you be considering international applicants to the program?**

Yes, international applicants are encouraged to apply to the Regina site. The University of Regina has extensive services in place for international students.

15. **Will there be designated seats for Aboriginal students?**

Yes, the number of designated seats will be representative of the Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan. There will be 33 seats for Aboriginal students in Regina and 25 seats in Saskatoon.
16. **If I have a disability, what type of support services will be available to me?**

SIAST and the University of Regina (UR) both offer support for persons with disabilities through their related offices. If you have a disability, identify yourself to SIAST or the UR, as follows below. Designated staff will work with faculty and support services to assist in ensuring appropriate accommodations are in place. We encourage you to contact the appropriate office as soon as possible, so that we may proceed on your behalf.

If you are applying to the Saskatoon site, call SIAST Counselling Services at Kelsey Campus (306-659-4050). If you are applying to the Regina site, call either SIAST Counselling Services at Wascana Campus (306-775-7436), or the UR Disability Resource Office at (306-585-4631). If you are applying to both sites, you are welcome to call either SIAST or the UR at one of the phone numbers specified above.

17. **I'm taking an ESL course at the University of Regina. Can I still be considered for admission?**

If you are registered in an ESL program at the University of Regina, you can be considered for conditional acceptance provided you submit proof of registration in the ESL program to SIAST, along with your application for admission to the Nursing program.

18. **I'm missing a high school prerequisite. Are there equivalent course that I can take at the university level during the 2010-11 academic session?**

If you are missing a high school prerequisite, there are a few options to complete the course requirement. You can either pursue studies through the high school system ([www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca)) or you can complete the high school equivalent at SIAST or the University of Regina. The following is a guide to what the course equivalents would be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High school</th>
<th>U of R course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry 30</td>
<td>Students can take CHEM 100 if they do not present CHEM 30 OR if the CHEM 30 grade is below 70% OR if CHEM 30 was taken more than five years ago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology 30</td>
<td>BIO 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math A30</td>
<td>AMTH 001 (non-credit) OR Math 101 (credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math B30</td>
<td>AMTH 002 (non-credit) OR Math 101 (credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math C30</td>
<td>AMTH 003 (non-credit) OR Math 101 (credit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students who are missing specific prerequisites or do not present the minimum 70% average will have the option of completing the course through the secondary school system or can complete the U of R course equivalent indicated above. We will blend curriculum levels when assessing students for admission.

Students who present less than 24 post-secondary credit hours will be treated as a high school applicant and must, therefore, present a minimum of 70% in all prerequisite courses (including those taken at the university level).

Students who present more than 24 post-secondary credit hours will be treated as a transfer student. The admissions average will be based solely on the UGPA; however, prerequisites must still be presented at either the high school or the post-secondary level.

19. **Where do I apply?**

There will be one intake per year, beginning each fall. There are two ways to apply: online or using a paper application form.

**Paper application:**
The SCBScN paper application form can be downloaded from SIAST and U of R websites. It is also available from the Admissions Office at the University of Regina; and from Registration Services at any of the four SIAST campuses. You can download the application now and get a head start; however, applications will not be accepted until September 15, 2010. Applications received before this date will be returned. It is strongly recommended that you submit as complete an application as possible. Incomplete applications will not be processed until all required documentation has been received.

**Online applications:**
The online application can be accessed from the U of R or SIAST website starting on September 15, 2010. If you are applying online, mail all supporting documents to the SIAST campus to which you are applying.

20. **What is the application fee?**

The application fee is $100 and must be submitted with the application form. If you are a current or former University of Regina student, you are not required to pay this application fee; however, you must provide your U of R
student number for verification and check off the box on the application form indicating that you are a current/former University of Regina student.

If you are applying online, payments can only be made using a credit card.

21. **Can I apply if I am still in high school?**

   We will start to accept applications on September 15, 2010. It is recommended that current high school students apply at this time or as soon as they are enrolled in the prerequisite courses. High school students will be considered for conditional admission based on available grades and proof of enrolment in prerequisite courses. Conditions may be removed when final grades are submitted in July. Have your high school complete the SCBScN Preliminary Statement of High School Standing form to provide proof of enrolment.

22. **What does FQFA (First Qualified/First Admitted) mean?**

   When we determine that you meet the program’s admission requirements, you will be offered admission based on the date you fully qualify for the program. The earlier you provide the appropriate documents and information that qualify you for admission for the next intake, the earlier you might begin your studies. Your application, once qualified, is always considered for the next intake. **IMPORTANT: Your FQFA date, is the date that SIAST has received your application form, application fee if applicable, and all supporting documentation.**

   Programs using the FQFA process receive applications year round and maintain an application pool for each academic year. For the SCBScN program’s first intake, we will open applications on September 15, 2010. Qualified applicants who are not offered a seat must reapply for the next academic year.

   Reapplication opportunities will exist for those qualified applicants who are not successful in obtaining a seat in the first intake of this program.

23. **What is the application deadline?**

   There is no application deadline.

   Applications will open at 0800 hours on September 15, 2010 for the fall 2011 student intake with admission to the program on a First Qualified/First Admitted basis.
Students who apply by March 15, 2011 will have the best chance at entrance scholarships and for residence accommodation at the U of R campus in Regina.

24. **When will I know if I am accepted into the program?**

As marks are received and evaluated, applicants will be informed as soon as a decision has been made. Notification of admission decisions should not be expected until early December.

25. **I’ve received my offer of admission. Now what do I do?**

You will receive an admission decision for each site location selected; however, you can accept a position at only one site. You will be given 30 days to respond to the offer of admission. You will be required to make a tuition deposit of $300 to hold your spot in the program.

26. **When is the first intake and in what month will classes start?**

The first intake will occur in fall 2011. Classes begin in September 2011.

27. **How long is the program?**

As a full-time student, the program includes two semesters of course work each year for four years.

28. **I am transferring from another post-secondary institution. Will I be eligible for transfer credit?**

You must meet the admission requirements outlined in question #9 above. After you have been admitted to the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, courses for which you have received previous credit will be evaluated to determine if they can be transferred to apply to the curriculum prescribed for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Transfer credit policy for nursing specific courses has not yet been established. If you are looking to transfer, you should focus on completing general education requirements. These include:

- Introduction to Indigenous Health Studies 1  100
- English 100
- Statistics 100
- Psychology 204 (Research Methods in Psychology)

For guidelines on course equivalencies at other post-secondary institutions, visit [http://www.uregina.ca/ads/transfercredit/courseEquivalents.shtml](http://www.uregina.ca/ads/transfercredit/courseEquivalents.shtml) and
select the institution from the drop-down box under University of Regina
Transfer Credit Equivalents.

29. I’d like to get a head start on the degree requirements but I’m not
current attending another post-secondary institution. What do I do?

If you are planning to apply for admission to the Saskatchewan
Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that will begin in
September 2011, but you would like to take courses at the University of
Regina starting in September 2010, we advise you do the following:

1) If you have not already done so, submit the application for
undergraduate admission as soon as possible. The application is
available from http://www.uregina.ca/admissions It is strongly
recommended that you apply to either the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty
of Science and complete the courses listed in question 27. Do NOT
register in General Studies or as a Casual Student.

2) To transfer to the Nursing program, you must submit the specific Nursing
application form. Applications will be accepted starting on September 15,
2010. The nursing application form is available on the University of
Nursing Faculty of Nursing website http://www.uregina.ca/nursing/

30. Can I take the program part time?

We encourage full-time study. However, if for some reason your studies are
interrupted, we will work with you to develop an individualized plan for
completing the program, provided it can be accomplished within a limit of
seven years from the time you started the program.

31. Are there ways for me to complete the program in less than four
years?

There will be a process for reviewing post-secondary courses/programs
completed prior to admission to the nursing program. You may receive
credit for previously completed post-secondary courses, provided they meet
the nursing program requirements.

32. Can I work part time while going to school?

Students may choose to work on a part-time basis during the program.
However, the heavy workload of the program may make this rather
challenging. In addition, some courses may require students to obtain their
clinical practice experience in a location outside Regina or Saskatoon,
which could interfere with a regular work schedule.
33. **How much will the tuition cost?**

Information regarding tuition fees is available on the University of Regina website at [http://www.uregina.ca/awards/](http://www.uregina.ca/awards/). Tuition fees for the 2011-2012 academic year will be made available in Summer 2011.

34. **Where can I buy my books and other materials?**

Textbooks will be available in bookstores at SIAST Kelsey Campus, SIAST Wascana Campus and the University of Regina. They can also be purchased online. The booklist will be made available.

35. **Are scholarships and bursaries available?**

Details have not been finalized. More information will be available in fall 2010.

36. **Are there any options to bridge into this program for people who already have an LPN or an RPN credential and obtain credit for courses already completed?**

There will be a process in place for reviewing post-secondary courses and programs. Students may receive credit for previously completed post-secondary courses and programs, provided it meets the new SCBScN program requirements.

37. **I am enrolled in another bachelor of nursing program and am interested in taking the new SCBScN program. Can I transfer my courses?**

It may be possible to receive transfer credit for courses you have already taken. These decisions are made on an individual basis after review by members of the Faculty of Nursing or by the faculty that represent the discipline of the course you have taken (e.g. Arts or Science). If you are transferring from another nursing program, a completed clinical reference form must be submitted with your application.

38. **I left NEPS before I graduated. Can I come back and complete the new SCBScN program?**

These decisions are made on an individual basis after review by the appropriate faculty members teaching in the new SCBScN program.
As a University of Regina, Luther, Campion or FNUniv student, can I transfer to the new SCBScN program?

You can apply for a transfer to the new program provided that you meet the same admission requirements as any other student who previously has completed some university level course work.