



# Perioperative Nursing/LPN 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="#">CLIN 220</a>	Introduction to Perioperative Nursing	
<a href="#">NRSE 200</a>	Psychomotor Skills Lab	
<a href="#">NRSE 201</a>	Perioperative Nursing in the Circulating Role	
<a href="#">NRSE 202</a>	Perioperative Nursing in the Scrub Role	
<a href="#">NRSE 203</a>	Surgical Procedures	
<a href="#">NRSE 204</a>	Perioperative Nursing Safety Considerations	
<a href="#">NRSE 205</a>	Perioperative Skills Lab	

**NRSE 200 – Introduction to Perioperative Nursing**

You will be introduced to the surgical layout and design, members of the perioperative team, perioperative nursing roles, principles of asepsis, sterilization, disinfection, and infection prevention through the implementation of perioperative nursing care. You will learn basic introductory aspects of the operating room related to perioperative nursing.

**Credit unit(s):** 1.0  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** NURS 244

<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. Identify perioperative practice settings.			
2. Identify perioperative nursing professional responsibilities.			
3. Consider perioperative communication, cultural competency, and Indigenization.			
4. Discuss perioperative medical terminology.			
5. Explain infection control and sterilization.			
6. Examine the principles of aseptic practice and sterile technique.			

**CLIN 220 - Perioperative Nursing Practice/LPN**

You will participate in a 10-week clinical experience that is limited to specific pre-selected agencies. Within the role of the LPN, 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>	Competent	Learning	None
1. Assess the client holistically.			
2. Formulate nursing diagnoses based on the client’s actual and potential problems.			
3. Formulate a plan of care.			
4. Implement the plan of care and revises the plan appropriately as a scrub nurse and secondary circulating role.			
5. Consistently employ effective communication skills.			
6. Conduct all nursing actions in a professional manner.			

**NURS 201 - Perioperative Nursing in the Circulating Role**

You will apply the nursing process to perioperative nursing care in the circulating role. You will discuss preparation of the surgical theatre, methods of anesthesia, and preparation of the surgical patient. You will examine professional responsibilities related to both the Registered Nurse (RN) and the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the perioperative nursing circulating role.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**Prerequisites:** NRSE 200  
**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. Examine the preparation of the surgical field for use.			
2. Examine patient admission into the operating room.			
3. Identify methods of anesthesia.			
4. Examine preparation of the surgical patient.			
5. Examine the preparation of the sterile field in the circulating role.			
6. Examine the procedure for surgical counts and specimen management in the circulating role.			
7. Examine the circulating nurse end of case activities.			
8. Examine the circulating nurse roles.			

**NURS 202 - Perioperative Nursing in the Scrub Role**

You will learn how to identify, arrange, use, and care for surgical instrumentation and accessory equipment while in the scrub nurse role. You will learn to safely prepare and handle supplies for surgical wound closure, perform a surgical count, and manage surgical specimens while in the scrub role.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**Prerequisites:** NURS 201  
**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. Demonstrate the preparation for sterile surgical team members.			
2. Identify names, uses, and care of surgical instruments.			
3. Examine guidelines for arranging the sterile field, surgical instruments, and supplies.			
4. Analyze safe handling of sterile sutures, sharps, and surgical instruments.			
5. Examine the surgical count.			
6. Examine surgical wounds, hemostasis, and specimen management while in the scrub role.			
7. Examine the scrub nurse end of case activities and role.			

### NURS 203 - Surgical Procedures

You will focus on the nursing skills used in various surgical services (including general surgery, gynecology/obstetrics surgery, minimally invasive surgery, orthopedic surgery, genitourinary surgery, ears/nose/throat (ENT) surgery, plastic surgery, neurological surgery, vascular surgery, and ophthalmology surgery).

**Credit unit(s):** 4.0  
**Prerequisites:** NRSE 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>	<b>Competent</b>	<b>Learning</b>	<b>None</b>
1. Examine perioperative nursing skills for general surgery.			
2. Examine perioperative nursing skills for gynecology and obstetrics surgery.			
3. Examine perioperative nursing skills for minimally invasive surgery.			
4. Examine perioperative nursing skills for orthopedic surgery.			
5. Examine perioperative nursing skills for genitourinary surgery.			
6. Examine perioperative nursing skills for ear, nose, and throat (ENT) surgery.			
7. Examine perioperative nursing skills for plastic surgery.			
8. Examine perioperative nursing skills for neurological surgery.			
9. Examine perioperative nursing skills for vascular surgery.			
10. Examine perioperative nursing skills for ophthalmology surgery.			



## NURS 204 – Perioperative Nursing Safety Considerations

You will examine perioperative nursing safety considerations related to geriatric, bariatric, pediatric, and obstetrical patients including cultural and Indigenous considerations. You will use the principles of perioperative nurse management to care for patients during urgent and emergency situations. You will learn coping strategies in the perioperative setting to manage stressful situations in a focused, calm, and positive manner.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**Prerequisites:** NURS 203  
**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. Discuss nursing responsibilities during emergency procedures.			
2. Assess perioperative critical incidents and coping strategies including Indigenous sharing circles.			
3. Examine geriatric safety considerations in the perioperative environment.			
4. Examine bariatric safety considerations in the perioperative environment.			
5. Examine pediatric safety considerations in the perioperative environment.			
6. Examine obstetrical safety considerations in the perioperative environment.			
7. Assess Indigenous, cultural, religious, and specific patient considerations in the perioperative environment.			

**NURS 205 – Perioperative 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:** NRSE 204  
**Corequisites:** none  
**Equivalent course(s):** NRSE 202

<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 psychomotor skills related to the scrub role.			
2. Perform psychomotor skills related to the circulator role.			
3. Perform psychomotor skills related to surgical asepsis.			
4. Perform psychomotor skills related to safety in the perioperative setting.			