



# Critical Care Nursing 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.

**Don Morales, Program Head**  
Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Regina Campus  
Phone: 306 – 775 - 7382  
Email: [morales4740@saskpolytech.ca](mailto:morales4740@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 233</a>	Fundamental Clinical Practice Education in Critical Care	
<a href="#">CLIN 234</a>	Progressive Clinical Practice Education in Critical Care	
<a href="#">NRSG 283</a>	Cardiac Output and Perfusion in Critical Care	
<a href="#">NRSG 284</a>	Ventilation, Oxygenation, and Neurologic Perfusion in Critical Care	
<a href="#">NRSG 285</a>	Multisystem Perfusion in Critical Care	
<a href="#">NRSG 286</a>	Introduction to Critical Care Nursing within a Patient and Family-Centred Environment	

**CLIN 233 - Fundamental Clinical Practice Education in Critical Care**

You will participate in a clinical experience focused on developing skills to manage the care of critical care patients through the application of theory into practice. You will be guided by a faculty member and/or clinical nurse educators and critical care preceptors in the clinical practice education.

**Credit unit(s):** 5.0  
**Prerequisites:** NRSG 285  
**Corequisites:** NRSG 286  
**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 a comprehensive patient assessment.			
2. Demonstrate critical thinking through appropriate clinical decision making and prioritization based on the patient case.			
3. Manage the care of critically ill patients safely under the guidance of a preceptor.			
4. Demonstrate patient and family-centred care and interprofessional collaboration in the critical care setting to plan and manage patient care.			
5. Demonstrate self-regulation and professionalism in a critical care setting.			

**CLIN 234 - Progressive Clinical Practice Education in Critical Care**

You will participate in clinical practice education focused on developing skills in critical thinking, clinical decision-making, and prioritization while coordinating the care of critical care patients through the integration of theory with practice. You will be guided by a faculty member and/or clinical nurse educators and critical care preceptors in the clinical practice education.

**Credit unit(s):** 7.0  
**Prerequisites:** CLIN 233  
**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. Develop an individualized comprehensive patient assessment based on patient priorities.			
2. Apply critical thinking through appropriate clinical decision making and prioritization based on the patient case.			
3. Evaluate the rationale for diagnostic testing, medications, and interventions and related clinical implications for critical care patients.			
4. Develop a plan of care anticipating actual and potential life-threatening alterations in critical care patients.			
5. Coordinate the care of critically ill patients safely under the guidance of a preceptor.			
6. Integrate patient and family-centred care and interprofessional collaboration in the critical care setting to plan and manage patient care.			
7. Apply self-regulation and professionalism in a critical care setting.			

**NRSG 283 - Cardiac Output and Perfusion in Critical Care**

You will examine the concepts of cardiac output and coronary perfusion inclusive of anatomy and physiology, related assessments and diagnostics, alterations, and their management.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**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. Analyze cardiovascular anatomy, physiology, assessment, and diagnostics related to coronary perfusion.			
2. Interpret cardiac rhythms.			
3. Evaluate the nursing management of alterations in coronary perfusion.			
4. Examine anatomy, physiology, assessment, and diagnostics related to cardiac output.			
5. Assess cardiac output using hemodynamic monitoring.			
6. Evaluate the nursing management of cardiac output alterations.			

**NRSG 284 - Ventilation, Oxygenation, and Neurologic Perfusion in Critical Care**

You will examine the concepts of ventilation and oxygenation and neurologic perfusion inclusive of anatomy and physiology, related assessments and diagnostics, alterations, and their management.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**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. Analyze the anatomy and physiology, assessment, and diagnostics of the pulmonary system.			
2. Evaluate the nursing management of pulmonary alterations.			
3. Evaluate anatomy and physiology, assessment, diagnostics, and nursing management of neurologic alterations.			
4. Examine the assessment and management of pain, delirium, and psychosocial factors in critical care.			
5. Evaluate high-risk medications used in the management of critically ill patients with alterations in ventilation and oxygenation and/or neurological perfusion.			

## NRSG 285 - Multisystem Perfusion in Critical Care

You will examine the concept of multisystem perfusion inclusive of anatomy and physiology, related assessments and diagnostics, alterations, and their management.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**Prerequisites:** NRSG 284  
**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. Examine anatomy and physiology, assessment, diagnostics, and nursing management of kidney alterations.			
2. Analyze anatomy and physiology, assessment, diagnostics, and nursing management of gastrointestinal alterations.			
3. Examine anatomy and physiology, assessment, diagnostics, and nursing management of endocrine alterations.			
4. Analyze hematologic disorders, oncologic emergencies, and associated nursing management.			
5. Examine burns and associated nursing management.			
6. Examine the phases of trauma, trauma injuries and complications of trauma injury in the critical care setting.			
7. Evaluate shock, systemic inflammatory response syndrome, multiple organ dysfunction syndrome and their nursing management.			
8. Assess a critically ill patient and their family.			
9. Review palliative care, end of life care, organ donation, and transplantation in the critical care setting.			



**NRSG 286 - Introduction to Critical Care Nursing within a Patient and Family-Centred Environment**

You will explore the impact of the critical care environment on the role, responsibilities, and experience of patients, families, the interdisciplinary team, and yourself. You will examine and learn to foster cultural safety, anti-racism, decolonization, and reconciliation in healthcare and the critical care environment.

**Credit unit(s):** 3.0  
**Prerequisites:** none  
**Corequisites:** CLIN 233  
**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. Evaluate the impact of the critical care environment on the role and experience of patients, families, the interdisciplinary team, and yourself.			
2. Critique evidence-based practice and its implementation to improve patient outcomes in the critical care environment.			
3. Evaluate the meaning and expression of privilege, culture, intersectionality, and cultural safety in health care and the critical care environment.			
4. Advocate for culturally safe interactions in the culturally diverse healthcare and critical care environment.			
5. Evaluate the meaning, expression, and impact of colonization and racism and appropriate responses in health care and the critical care environment.			
6. Advocate for decolonialization, reconciliation, and anti-racism in healthcare and the critical care environment.			