



CARE WITH CONFIDENCE

BCIT Specialty Nursing Programs





We provide innovative education through leadership, scholarship, and collaboration, to advance excellence in specialty nursing practice in the global healthcare environment.

Unique in Canada, Specialty Nursing at BCIT® offers education in a variety of specialized nursing disciplines to registered nurses (RNs) and students enrolled in provincially accredited nursing programs. Graduates of our specialty programs meet the growing need for knowledgeable nurses to work in high-skill, high-reward practice areas.

Our curricula are informed by the core competencies outlined by the national bodies governing each of our respective specialties. Our instructors are working professionals who bring their nursing experience to the classroom, ensuring our graduates are practice-ready. We stress systematic assessment, critical thinking, technical expertise, as well as a patient-centered approach. As we educate undergraduate and working nurses, we engage with the community to advocate for best outcomes, both for patients and families, as well as the healthcare system within British Columbia and across Canada. By choosing BCIT, you are choosing excellence in specialty nursing.

SPECIALTY NURSING LEARNING OPTIONS

Part-Time Studies

All specialty nursing courses are offered on a part-time basis to provide maximum flexibility for individual learners. Advanced certificates require between 24 and 30 credits to complete, with most courses being 3 to 5 credits each. As with all BCIT programs, previous experience and academic learning can be applied towards transfer credit or Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) credit. Certificates can be completed in as little as 18 months.

Theory courses are offered through our online learning platform, allowing self-study that fits into the schedules of busy undergraduates and working nurses. Clinical courses are set in hospitals and clinics where students are supervised by clinical instructors and preceptors in a safe and supportive environment.

Compressed Time Frames (CTFs)

To meet the needs of health authorities and other industry partners, BCIT offers a Compressed Time Frame (CTF) format for learning. This format shortens the time needed to be practice-ready by focusing only on the education portion that addresses the employer's staffing needs, rather than the entire advanced certificate curriculum. Learners who do not complete the full certificate can continue their education through part-time study, building on credits they have already earned.

Our customized curricula are broken into two portions: prerequisites and CTF. Prerequisites are theory-based courses completed via independent self-study. These courses are delivered through our online learning portal, in-class teaching, and enhanced workshops.

The CTFs are offered as immersive, full-time curricula, and include theoretical learning interspersed with supervised clinical placements. This allows students to apply their learning more effectively, with hands-on experience following immediately after theoretical instruction.

Delivered in the same format as part-time studies, these clinicals are also instructor- or preceptor-led, ensuring safe and supportive learning environments. This intensive learning model allows RNs to be practice-ready in their chosen specialty in as little as 14 to 28 weeks (depending on the program).

EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL ILLNESS CARE

Emergency Nursing Certificate

The Emergency Nursing Specialty program prepares RNs with the knowledge, skills, and leadership training to work in a variety of emergency settings, ranging from rural to urban centers. Courses provide the necessary pathophysiology, assessment frameworks, and nursing theory to enable nurses to serve a diverse client base presenting a wide range of illnesses and injuries. Our comprehensive curriculum includes both emergency nursing theory and clinical practice.

Emergency – Critical Care Nursing Certificate

This program is designed for RNs working primarily in emergency care units of community and rural hospitals with some shifts in the ICU. The focus is on trauma care and emergency nursing principles to optimize care and comfort for acutely ill patients. These strategies include advanced hemodynamic monitoring and mechanical ventilation.

Pediatric Emergency Nursing Certificate (Emergency Path)

This program prepares RNs to care for the complex, specific, and unique needs of pediatric patients. Nurses learn to consider children’s growth, development stages, and the physiology of different pediatric age groups in the context of emergency medicine.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Kathy Kennedy	Kathryn_Kennedy@bcit.ca	604.456.8021

Critical Care Nursing Certificate

The Critical Care Specialty Nursing program prepares RNs with the knowledge, skills and clinical reasoning to care for patients in intensive care units (ICUs), cardiac care, cardiac surgical and post-anesthetic care units. Focusing on foundational critical care nursing concepts, nurses learn oxygen supply and demand theory and comprehensive assessment skills including: dysrhythmia interpretation, arterial blood gas analysis, invasive hemodynamic assessment and monitoring, and principles of mechanical ventilation. Theory courses are delivered through iBook and iPad and are accessible in workplace-clinical practicums, providing a seamless application of in-class knowledge. Our curricula incorporate the perspectives of learners, patients and practitioners, and reflect the realities of critical illness and critical care nursing practice.

Critical Care – Emergency Nursing Certificate

This program is designed for RNs working in the ICU of a community hospital with some shifts in the emergency department. Nurses will learn to care for acute coronary syndrome, cardiac failure, advanced hemodynamic monitoring, acute respiratory failure, and emergency traumas.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Andrea Ford	Andrea_Ford@bcit.ca	604.451.7083

High Acuity Nursing Certificate

The only program of its kind in Canada, the High Acuity Specialty Nursing program applies the foundational medical-surgical nursing skills learned during BSN studies to an acute care setting. A niche area of patient care, high acuity nurses work in inpatient units supporting acute and complex patients with multiple health challenges. BCIT’s comprehensive curriculum will prepare students to succeed in this challenging nursing specialty.

Critical Care Bridge CTF

With a foundation in caring for highly acute patients in step-down units, the bridge option teaches additional skills needed to work in ICUs. This program is offered in CTF format only and does not have a certificate completion path. For additional credits to earn a certificate, please contact the program head.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Deborah Yates	Deborah_Yates@bcit.ca	604.453.4075

Program Lengths

Main Program

EMERGENCY		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	14 credits	210 hours
Clinical	10 credits	250 hours
Total	24 credits	460 hours
CTF – 12 weeks prerequisite, 12 weeks full-time		
Same theory and clinical components as certificate		

CRITICAL CARE		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	18 credits	270 hours
Clinical	9 credits	225 hours
Total	27 credits	495 hours
CTF – 12 weeks prerequisite, 16 weeks full-time		
Same theory and clinical components as certificate		

HIGH ACUITY		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	19 credits	285 hours
Clinical	5 credits	125 hours
Total	24 credits	410 hours
CTF – 12 weeks prerequisite, 7 weeks full-time		
Theory	12 credits	180 hours
Clinical	5 credits	125 hours
Total	17 credits	305 hours

Sub-specialties

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY (Emergency Path)		
CERTIFICATE – complete Emergency certificate, then:		
Theory	9 credits	135 hours
Clinical	4 credits	100 hours
Total	13 credits	235 hours

EMERGENCY – CRITICAL CARE		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	18 credits	270 hours
Clinical	10 credits	250 hours
Total	28 credits	520 hours

CRITICAL CARE – EMERGENCY		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	18 credits	270 hours
Clinical	10 credits	250 hours
Total	28 credits	520 hours

HIGH-ACUITY – CRITICAL CARE CTF BRIDGE		
CERTIFICATE		
Not offered		
CTF – 11 weeks full-time, complete High Acuity CTF, then:		
Theory	9 credits	135 hours
Clinical	9 credits	225 hours
Total	18 credits	360 hours

Learn more at:

bcit.ca/specialtynursing

BIRTHING AND CHILD CARE

Neonatal Nursing Certificate

The Neonatal Specialty Nursing program provides RNs and nursing students with the skills to care for newborn infants with a variety of health challenges in the first month of their lives. Our program equips students with the technical and emotional skills to effectively support infants and their families during this challenging time. The curriculum incorporates both online theory and workplace clinical placements.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Treena Cardiff	Treena_Cardiff@bcit.ca	604.451.7080

Pediatric Nursing Certificate

Pediatric specialty nursing is an exciting and rewarding career path dedicated to the health and care of young people, ranging from babies to teenagers. Children, as patients, have unique healthcare needs that require specialized knowledge and expertise related to their growth, development, illness, and injury. BCIT prepares pediatric nurses with the skills to provide a safe and supportive environment for young patients and their families.

Pediatric Emergency Nursing Certificate (Pediatric Path)

The only one of its kind in BC, this program prepares RNs to care for the complex, specific, and unique needs of pediatric patients. Nurses learn to consider children’s growth and development stages and the unique physiology of the different pediatric age groups in the context of emergency medicine.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Tara Hodgson	Tara_Hodgson@bcit.ca	604.412.7548

Perinatal Nursing Certificate

BCIT’s Perinatal Specialty Nursing program prepares RNs to practice in hospital and community settings that care for childbearing women, newborns, and families. The program explores birth from medical, technical, and technological angles and provides insight into the experience of a mother, her infant, and other family members. Specifically, it provides guidance for RNs on how to support and advocate on patients’ behalf.

Perinatal-Perioperative Nursing Certificate

Designed exclusively for the family birthing (FB) unit, skilled perinatal nurses are sponsored through this program to gain expertise in providing perioperative care for patients and their families undergoing cesarean section births and recoveries. Meeting regional FB unit demand, this program is usually offered once per year.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Reina Van Lagen	Reina_Van_Lagen@bcit.ca	604.451.7081

Program Lengths

Main Program

NEONATAL		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	17 credits	255 hours
Clinical	7 credits	175 hours
Total	24 credits	430 hours
CTF – 12 weeks prerequisite, 11 weeks full-time		
Theory	10 credits	150 hours
Clinical	7 credits	175 hours
Total	17 credits	325 hours

PEDIATRIC		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	16 credits	225 hours
Clinical	8 credits	200 hours
Total	24 credits	425 hours
CTF		
Individual, tailored CTF curricula available. Please contact the program head.		

PERINATAL		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	13 credits	195 hours
Clinical	11 credits	275 hours
Total	24 credits	470 hours
CTF – 12 weeks prerequisite, 12 weeks full-time		
Theory	10 credits	150 hours
Clinical	11 credits	275 hours
Total	21 credits	425 hours

Sub-specialties

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY (Pediatric Path)		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	18 credits	270 hours
Clinical	11 credits	275 hours
Total	29 credits	545 hours

PERINATAL-PERIOPERATIVE		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	16 credits	225 hours
Clinical	13 credits	325 hours
Total	29 credits	550 hours
CTF – 14 weeks prerequisite, 5 weeks full-time		
Theory	5 credits	75 hours
Clinical	8 credits	200 hours
Total	13 credits	275 hours

Learn more at:
bcit.ca/specialtynursing

OTHER SPECIALTIES

Nephrology Nursing Certificate

The nephrology nursing specialty provides care to patients living with renal disease to optimize their overall health and wellness, and that of their families and communities. Renal disease is a chronic condition arising from many causes and often progresses to kidney failure which requires dialysis or transplantation to sustain life. Renal disease impacts all body systems and emotional well-being. In collaboration with other healthcare providers, nephrology nurses typically provide support to patients and families over an extended period of time to help them manage their disease, their treatment, and the resulting inherent health changes.

BCIT's Nephrology Specialty Nursing program prepares RNs to work in this technically challenging and emotionally delicate specialty.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Tony Chacon	Tony_Chacon@bcit.ca	604.451.7104

Occupational Health Nursing Certificate

Occupational Health Nursing (OHN) is a community health nursing specialty that focuses on the relationship between the work environment and an employee's health. OHN can include any combination of improving, protecting, maintaining, or restoring the health of employees, thereby influencing the health of organizations and the community at large.

This program addresses the OHN certification competencies outlined by the Canadian Nurses Association (2013):

- occupational health nursing practice;
- identification, evaluation, and control of workplace hazards;
- health surveillance;
- assessment, care, and case management of injuries and illnesses;
- health, safety and wellness promotion, education, and management.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Janet Morrison	Janet_Morrison@bcit.ca	604.451.7082

Perioperative Nursing Certificate

Perioperative nursing focuses on the experiences of anesthesia and surgery and its meaning for patients, families, nurses, and the multi-disciplinary healthcare team. This specialty requires systematic preparation, technical knowledge, skill, and sound situational judgment and sensitivity.

This program prepares nurses to provide competent, individualized care that promotes comfort, safety, and stability for patients by collaboratively managing and coordinating all phases of the perioperative experience and advocating for patient rights and needs.

Perinatal-Perioperative Nursing Certificate

Designed exclusively for the family birthing (FB) unit, skilled perinatal nurses are sponsored through this program to gain expertise in providing perioperative care for patients and their families undergoing cesarean section births and recoveries. Meeting regional FB unit demand, this program is usually offered once per year.

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Karen Sheehan	Karen_Sheehan@bcit.ca	604.451.7079

Other Specialties Time Investment

Main Program

NEPHROLOGY		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	12 credits	180 hours
Clinical	13 credits	325 hours
Total	25 credits	505 hours
CTF – 14 weeks full-time		
Theory	3 credits	46 hours
Clinical	5 credits	125 hours
Total	8 credits	171 hours

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	21 credits	315 hours
Clinical	9 credits	225 hours
Total	30 credits	540 hours
CTF		
Not offered		

PERIOPERATIVE		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	9 credits	135 hours
Clinical	16 credits	400 hours
Total	25 credits	535 hours
CTF – 12 weeks prerequisite, 13 weeks full-time		
Theory	9 credits	135 hours
Clinical	11 credits	275 hours
Total	20 credits	410 hours

Sub-specialties

PERINATAL-PERIOPERATIVE		
CERTIFICATE		
Theory	16 credits	225 hours
Clinical	13 credits	325 hours
Total	29 credits	550 hours
CTF – 14 weeks prerequisite, 5 weeks full-time		
Theory	5 credits	75 hours
Clinical	8 credits	200 hours
Total	13 credits	275 hours

Learn more at:

bcit.ca/specialtynursing

SPECIALTY NURSING – BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

For RNs with college diplomas, BCIT offers the only combined Advanced Specialty certificate and Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) degree in Canada. Specialty studies advance nursing careers and offer opportunities in exciting new areas of practice, while degree studies foster professional growth in leadership, research appraisal, principles of education, and community health. RNs with their BSN are eligible for graduate studies and have expanded employment opportunities as educators, leaders, and public or community health nurses.

For more information, please contact:

PROGRAM HEAD	EMAIL	PHONE
Pauline O'Reilly	Pauline_O'Reilly@bcit.ca	604.451.7115

SPECIALTY NURSING ELECTIVES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NURSES

For students in accredited nursing programs, BCIT offers introductory theory courses to learners in their third or fourth year of study. Courses are offered every term (January, April, and September) through our online learning portal. Students across Canada can gain knowledge in the specialty of their choice and advance their careers.

For course details, visit bcit.ca/specialtynursing.

PROGRAM	COURSE	TITLE
Critical Care	NSCC 7120	Critical Care Nursing Theory 1
	NSCC 7150	Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
Emergency	NSCC 7150	Dysrhythmia Interpretation and Management
	NSER 7110	Emergency Nursing Theory 1
High Acuity	NSHA 7100	High Acuity Specialty Nursing Theory 1
Neonatal	NSNE 7100	Neonatal Theory 1
	NSNE 7200	Neonatal Theory 2
Nephrology	NSNN 7200	Nephrology Nursing Theory 1: Introduction
	NSNN 7400	Nephrology Nursing Theory 2: Introduction to Dialysis Nursing
Occupational Health	NSOH 7100	Introduction to Occupational Health Nursing
	NSOH 7200	Work and Work Environments
Pediatric	NSPE 7100	Pediatric Theory 1
	NSPE 7200	Pediatric Theory 2
Perinatal	NSPN 7100	Perinatal Nursing Theory 1: Health Childbearing Experiences and the Newborn
	NSPN 7200	Perinatal Theory 2: Child Bearing Women
Perioperative	NSPO 7100	Perioperative Theory 1: Developing Perioperative Partnerships
	NSPO 7250	Perioperative Theory 2: The Nurse in the Scrub Role

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

BCIT offers many options for registered nurses interested in further specialty education. Nurses can either pursue another advanced specialty certificate or take course-by-course skills development. These courses focus on bridging potential knowledge gaps so that nurses are better able to support patients and families and produce the best possible health outcomes.

Courses include:

NSNN 7420	Nephrology Nursing Theory 2: Part B
NSPN 7720	Contraceptive Management
NSPN 7735	Sexually Transmitted Infection Management Theory
NSPN 7736	Sexually Transmitted Infection Management Clinical
NSPN 7740	Sexual Health Rehabilitation 1
NSPN 7745	Sexual Health Rehabilitation 2
NSOH 7700	Viral Hepatitis
NSSC 7000	The Palliative Approach in Nursing Practice
NSSC 7115	Teaching and Learning in Nursing
NSSC 8300	Creative Leadership





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