



4-year Online (Part-time) LPN to BScN Program

1. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline is February 2, 2023. Students must have registered and completed CASPer on or before this date as well.

2. How do I apply?

You can apply by going to <https://www.stfx.ca/admissions/apply> and following the steps to apply.

3. I have my LPN diploma from a school other than NSCC, can I apply?

As of this year, you must be licensed as an LPN in Nova Scotia, but may have received your LPN diploma from any institution in Canada.

4. What documents are required other than my application?

We require your official LPN diploma transcript and CASPer test scores (takecasper.com), a copy of your current LPN license and confirmation of 1800 hours worked as an LPN in the last two (2) years (require a letter of verification from employer). If you have applied previously, you will need to re-submit this information, and re-take CASPer.

5. When will I find out if I am accepted? How do I find out?

Offers will be sent in February. You will be notified by email whether you are accepted or not.

6. When would I start courses?

Courses begin end of April. The first year (April 2023 to end of April 2024) will be made up of the five pathway courses:

- i. English (Undergrad)
- ii. Statistics (Undergrad)
- iii. Microbiology (Undergrad)
- iv. NURS 297 (Nursing Pathway course)
- v. NURS 265 (Nursing Pathway course)

7. Can I be granted transfer credits?

Upon acceptance to the university, students may be assessed for transfer credits for pathway courses (BIOL, ENGL & STATS) and electives, based on official transcripts submitted with your application. All transfer credits are granted through Academic Advising.

8. How many courses do I take per semester in this online, part-time program?

Students are limited to a maximum of two courses per semester.

Due to curriculum progression requirements, students are not able to work ahead of the defined schedule between years 2 and 4.

9. How much does it cost? When are payments due?

Fees for students in the program, can be found on the StFX Financial Services website by visiting <https://www.mystfx.ca/financial-services/student-accounts>

- Fees for the 3 undergraduate pathway courses (BIOL 115, STATS 101, ENGL 111) fall under the Per Credit Fee Schedule.
- Fees for the nursing pathway courses (NURS 265, NURS 297) and the remaining LPN-BScN courses fall under the Nursing Per Credit Fee Schedule.

10. Can I apply for a student loan?

Yes, you can apply for part-time funding while in this 4-year online program through the Nova Scotia Student Assistance program. It is not a guarantee that you as an individual will qualify for funding.

11. Will I be pre-registered in all my courses?

Yes, you will be pre-registered in all your courses, **except** electives.

You may request assistance with registering in an elective course via Academic Advising or the Distance Nursing Office, if required.

12. Are there any on-campus components within the 4-year part-time online program?

Yes, students will normally be required to come to campus for learning experiences in the skills lab and Simulation Centre. See more info below.

13. Is there a clinical component?

Yes, there is a clinical component within the Distance (part-time) LPN-BScN Program.

You will be required to travel to clinical placements as it is not a guarantee that your clinical placement will be in or near your hometown.

There are Group Clinical Placements (NURS 309, NURS 334), and preceptored clinical placements (NURS 409, NURS 440).

- i. Group Clinical Placements are groups of 7-8 students with a designated StFX Nurse Educator.
- ii. A Preceptored Clinical Placement is where a student works 1:1 with a designated RN (Preceptor).
- iii. NURS 440 is the final consolidation of your clinical placements. You are required to complete 440 working hours for this clinical placement. Therefore, you may require a leave of absence from your employer as you will work the schedule of your preceptor for approximately 2-3 months to complete the LPN-BScN Program's final clinical placement/course.

**Note: Nurse Educators and Preceptors are trained and employed by StFX for this role. You cannot appoint your own, nor can you request an individual clinical rotation in place of a group clinical.

SIM Lab requirements:

- iv. There are on-campus SIM Lab requirements. This will require you to be in Antigonish for approximately 1-4 days at various times each year. The purpose of the SIM Lab is to practice hands-on assessments and skills in a controlled setting. Dates will be communicated to you in advance of the SIM Lab.
- v. SIM Lab Days occur adjacent to clinical courses (i.e., NURS 234, NURS 309, NURS 334)
- vi. Attendance is **mandatory** for SIM Days as they are a course requirement.

Additional Training:

- vii. Some students may need training in the Patient Chart System (Meditech) and/or IV Insertion prior to their clinicals. These can take place on campus. Efforts will be made to coordinate additional training with SIM Lab dates, however some students may need the additional training prior to Clinical/SIM Lab start dates, which may require a separate on-campus visit.

14. Can I request a specific clinical location?

In short, no, although you can submit a request for consideration. Submission of a request will not guarantee your preferred location, but the program office will try to accommodate as best they can. Generally, it is easier to accommodate location requests for your final clinical consolidation (NURS440), however, this is never a guarantee.

15. How are clinical placements decided?

There are a few variables concerning placements:

- i. Nurse Educators: There are a limited number of nurse educators across the province who work in the various departments in the NHSA hospitals. These educators work with groups of 7-8 students for their clinical group placements.
- ii. Placement Coordination:
 1. The Placement Coordinator uses HSPNet, a database program for arranging student clinical placements for StFX. HSPNet facilitates the placements of all students for all nursing schools across all Canadian provinces (except for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). Placement coordinators at each institution, work to confirm placements for their respective groups of students. As you can appreciate, this can be challenging, particularly when schools are vying for similar hospital wards (i.e., surgical, medical, obstetrical, etc.) during similar times of year.
 2. The health authority/hospitals/wards also indicate to HSPNet if they can accommodate students, how many students, and if they have the staff to support students. This can change without warning given the complexities within hospital administration and while maintaining safe staff to patient care levels. Some hospital wards cannot accommodate certain clinical groups due to size (i.e., less patients/staff to students), thus limiting further clinical availability.

When do clinical placements get decided?

- i. While the Program Manager can provide you with a general timeline for your clinicals, the exact dates (including shift time) and locations may not be confirmed until a few weeks before or even closer to your anticipated start date. This is due to the noted challenge of coordinating and securing nurse educators, preceptors, and placements that are required for your clinical.
- ii. Please know that we are aware that many students have competing family and professional responsibilities, and we do work to secure placements as soon as we can. Unfortunately, there are variables outside of StFX's control that impede our receipt of information for all clinical placements in a timely manner.

What if I get placed in a hospital outside my home community?

- i. You are responsible for incurring the cost of travel and potential short-term accommodations for your clinical placement. If you are scheduled to complete your placement in the Antigonish/New Glasgow area during the spring term (May-July), we may be able to secure a special rate to stay on campus. Please contact the Distance Nursing Office (distance.lpn@stfx.ca) for more information.

16. What is the course map for the program?

Please see the following charts for a map of each program option. Clinical components are in green text.

4-year Online (Part-time) LPN to BScN Program

Spring 2023

Dates	May to July	August	Sept to Dec	Jan to April
April 2023 to April 2024 Pathway Year (Year 1)	BIOL 115, STATS 101, ENGL 111, NURS 297, NURS 265 (total of 15 credits)			
May 2024 to April 2025 (Year 2)	SEMESTER 4a NURS 232 NURS 233 (9 credits)	No classes	SEMESTER 4b NURS 231 NURS 234* (6 credits)	SEMESTER 5a NURS 307 NURS 308 (9 credits)
May 2025 to April 2026 (Year 3)	SEMESTER 5b NURS 306 NURS 309* (6 credits)	No classes	SEMESTER 6a NURS 332 ELECTIVE (6 credits)	SEMESTER 6b NURS 333 ELECTIVE (9 credits)
May 2026 to April 2027 (Year 4)	SEMESTER 7a NURS 334* NURS 406 (6 credits)	NURS 406 (Ends in Aug)	SEMESTER 7b NURS 408 NURS 409* (9 credits)	SEMESTER 8 NURS 440* (15 credits)

* Clinical Course