

Diploma Program in Psychiatric Nursing  
Department of Psychiatric Nursing  
Douglas College  
P.O. Box 2503  
New Westminster BC V3L 5B2

Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing  
Brandon University  
Department of Nursing & Health Studies  
270 - 18th Street  
Brandon MB R7A 6A9

Psychiatric Nursing Program  
Grant MacEwan Community College  
10700 - 104th Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5J 4S2

### **Post-Diploma Programs**

RPN's may continue their education through post-diploma programs leading to advanced certification or a baccalaureate degree through the following:

Post Registration BSN Program  
University of Saskatchewan  
College of Nursing  
107 Wiggins Road  
Saskatoon SK S4N 5E5

Advanced Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing  
Douglas College  
Department of Psychiatric Nursing  
P.O. Box 2503  
New Westminster BC V3L 5B2

Bachelor of Health Science (Psychiatric Nursing)  
Educational Access Services Department  
Open Learning Agency  
4355 Mathissi Place  
Burnaby BC V5G 4S8

Bachelor of Science in Mental Health  
Brandon University  
Dept. of Nursing & Health Studies  
270 - 18th Street  
Brandon MB R7A 6A9

### **Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan (RPNAS)**

As a licencing and regulatory body, the RPNAS, governs the practice of psychiatric nursing throughout the province. The Association sets and ensures standards of practice for registered psychiatric nurses while promoting growth and development of the profession.

As a member of the health care community, provincially and nationally, the RPNAS is concerned with mental health issues affecting society. The Association maintains a central office and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

# **PSYCHIATRIC NURSING**



**REGISTERED  
PSYCHIATRIC  
NURSES  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SASKATCHEWAN**

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# PSYCHIATRIC NURSING

## What is Psychiatric Nursing?

Psychiatric nursing, as a distinct field, provides services to individuals whose primary care needs relate to emotional and developmental health. The core knowledge and skills of psychiatric nursing are developed from the nursing, psycho-social, biological and physical sciences. The basis of psychiatric nursing is a caring, therapeutic relationship with others. Caring includes empathy, acknowledgement of the uniqueness of the individual, a non-judgemental attitude, respect for the rights, beliefs and values of others; and a willingness to share, learn and grow. Psychiatric nursing focuses on the influence of psycho-social forces on health while committed to the promotion, restoration and maintenance of optimal health.

## The Registered Psychiatric Nurse

The registered psychiatric nurse is a graduate of a recognized and approved post-secondary education program who has met all the requirements for registration and licensure. Professional status is established by legislation and is administered by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan. The provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba have comparable requirements and professional bodies. There are over 6,000 registered psychiatric nurses in Western Canada.

## The registered psychiatric nurse:

- \* uses highly developed professional skills to understand the client's psycho-social and emotional needs and his/her own reaction to the client's behaviour.
- \* uses professional skills in communication with the mentally ill and the developmentally handicapped.
- \* is actively involved in assessing the client's psycho-social and physical needs and assists the client with basic life skills.
- \* plans and implements programs to meet the needs of the client through group discussions, individual and family counselling; and through training and education of clients with developmental handicaps.
- \* continues to develop knowledge and skills in the profession.

## Employment Opportunities for Registered Psychiatric Nurses

Using their basic educational preparation and experience, registered psychiatric nurses can be employed in a wide range of services and programs. A variety of agencies and community based programs use the unique combination of nursing and psycho-social skills possessed by the registered psychiatric nurse.

Registered psychiatric nurses work in the following areas of practice and employment settings:

- \* acute psychiatry
- \* longterm geriatric care and home care
- \* residential and community programs for the developmentally handicapped
- \* forensic psychiatry

- \* institutional and community based corrections
- \* community mental health programs
- \* K-12 special education programs
- \* employee assistance programs
- \* child guidance and family therapy clinics
- \* chemical dependency programs
- \* hospitals and special care homes
- \* children and geriatric day care
- \* women's shelters and clinics
- \* residential and community adolescent programs
- \* consultation and private practice
- \* psychiatric nursing education
- \* sheltered workshops, rehab/vocational programs
- \* administration, personnel, staff development
- \* self-help groups

## Psychiatric Nursing Education

The following diploma/degree programs prepare the beginning practitioner for registration and licensure:

Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan  
(4 year Degree / 3 year Diploma option)

SIAST Kelsey Campus  
Box 1520  
Saskatoon SK S7K 3R5  
Telephone: (306) 933-6440  
Toll Free: 1-800-567-3263

SIAST Wascana Campus  
Box 556  
Regina SK S4P 3A3  
Telephone: (306) 787-4258  
Toll Free: 1-800-667-7730