



Nursing Program

College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences
3333 University Way
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9
Phone: 250-960-6309
Fax: 250-960-5744

NCBNP PROFILE UPDATE ~ February 2006

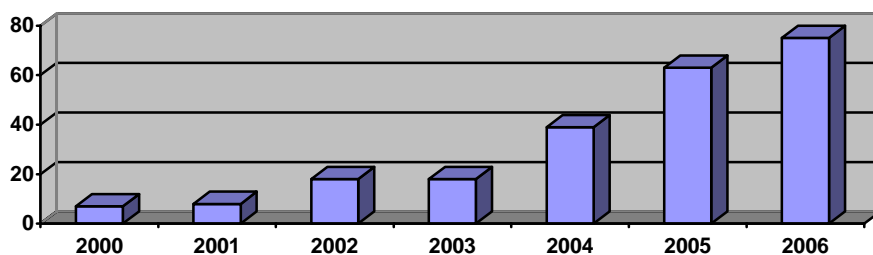
Our Program

The Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program (NCBNP) was established in 1996 by agreement between the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and the College of New Caledonia (CNC). From fall 2005 the Northwest Community College (NWCC) at Terrace in northwest BC has joined the NCBNP collaboration and will offer all four years of the BScN in partnership with UNBC. UNBC confers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) on students completing the four-year curriculum of academic and clinical study. The total credits for the degree are 134, 98 of which are nursing credits. There are approximately 1300 hours of required clinical experience mostly in years 2, 3 and 4. Students entering the program in Prince George complete the first two years at CNC before transferring to year 3 and 4 at UNBC. Students at the Quesnel (CNC) and Terrace (NWCC) campuses complete their final two years with UNBC at those locations. The College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) has approved the NCBNP curriculum across all three sites until December 2007.

Our Students

The number of students in the NCBNP is growing. Since January 1997 when the first students were admitted and 7 graduated in May 2000, entry numbers have sharply increased. Intake allocations for 2005 were 146 - 104 in Prince George, 24 in Quesnel and 18 in Terrace. The actual intake for 2005 was 128. The chart below shows the growth in student numbers by graduating cohort over the past 6 years.

NCBNP Graduates 2000-2006



By September 2006 term start the nursing program will see the largest 3rd year cohort size of 65 students since the program commenced. In the fall of 2007 this number will increase to 80+ students.

The majority of students entering the NCBNP are from Prince George or from northern BC. The gender balance still favours women with between 6-10% of cohorts, male. There is a trend for students to be older - post 22 years rather than coming direct from high school graduation. As the competition for nursing seats in BC increases it is anticipated the profile of students will change. More rural students, a higher demand for flexible program delivery (eg Web CT), preparation for northern BC nursing practice with more study options, and support for clinical placement experience. The cost for students in the four-year program is also a deciding factor with average tuition fees at \$17,000 and textbooks and other study costs adding a further \$4,000. The total cost for students of \$21,000 can double when other living costs and travel / accommodation is added for clinical placements. Employment of graduating students is high. The Northern Health authority employs just over 85% of our graduates to practice in northern BC. The demand for graduates from the NCBNP is expected to increase steadily over the next 5-10 years as more RNs reach retirement age. Rural health facilities will feel this pressure the most

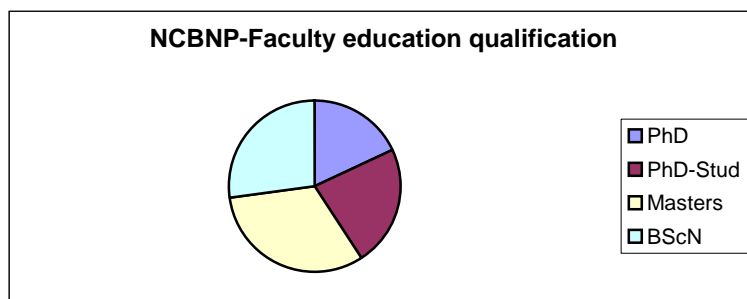
and will have to ensure they make it attractive for new graduates to work in rural practice.

Our Faculty



The quality of graduates from the NCBNP is influenced to a considerable extent by the quality of teaching and clinical teaching support from Preceptors and Clinical Instructors. Since the beginning of the program ten years ago the number of faculty particularly at UNBC has increased. There are 9 academic faculty and 3 program support staff at UNBC. These staff provide teaching and program support in years three and four at Prince George and Quesnel and are further assisted by approximately 12 part time Clinical Instructors who work with students in acute, community, mental health and First Nations clinical teaching environments in both urban and rural areas in Prince George and surrounding regions.

At CNC 9 academic faculty in Prince George and an additional 6 at Quesnel are responsible for delivery of the program mostly in year 1&2. There is broad nursing and academic experience across the faculty profile. The majority are Canadian nurses with considerable clinical expertise and experience in the northern BC health system. Half of the UNBC faculty have overseas nursing and education qualifications from Australia, UK and USA. Educational qualification achievements for faculty of the collaborating partners - UNBC and CNC are shown in this diagram. Further recruitment of 4 faculty is planned for UNBC in 2006-07. This will include undergraduate and graduate, especially for the new in 2005 MScN - Family Nurse Practitioner program.



Our Clinical Partners



The conduct of any undergraduate program is not possible without the support of clinical partners. Students must have the opportunity to practice the theoretical aspects of nursing in a student supportive learning environment. The NCBNP utilises over 80 different health care placements across northern BC. The majority of student placements take place in health service facilities within Prince George, Terrace and Quesnel. The willingness of clinical staff to preceptor student learning is highly valued.

NCBNP Clinical Instructors at Quesnel

Joan Broderick, Phyllis Turner, Kathy Wrath, Melody Moore, Bruce Self, Anne Lloyd and Clara Antoniazzi.

Our future

The future of the NCBNP is assured due to increasing demand for registered nurses in northern BC, other provinces in Canada and internationally. The demand indicators show an ageing nursing workforce with a high need for new graduates over the next 10-20 years as nurses currently in their 50s retire. There are and will be challenges. The low number of First Nations students graduating from the program (16 in the past 6 years) must be addressed. A target intake for First Nations students of 20% has been set from 2005 for all intakes. The NCBNP must respond to changing health care and service delivery requirements, not only in northern BC but also more widely.



The current curriculum is due for review in 2007 and work has already commenced to make changes to the curriculum and the way it is delivered. The NCBNP will need to develop a strong identity in the coming years and will be known for its focus on rural health, First Nations, Community and Family nurse practitioners. Improved opportunities for postgraduate, continuing professional development and post diploma nurse entry will be featured and the delivery methods for programs will change to give learners more flexibility.