



Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at St. Lawrence College. St. Lawrence College offers this 4-year degree program at all 3 campuses: Brockville, Cornwall and Kingston. The questions below are common frequently asked questions by incoming students; please note there may be campus specific information for some of the questions.

Please note the following important information:

- Your \$250 deposit for securing your seat in the BScN program is due in June 2020. Please refer to the following link for payment deadlines <https://stlawrencecollege.ca/pay-for-college/fees/tuition-and-fees-faq/>. Students who miss this deadline will have their acceptance revoked and will need to re-apply for admission next year. Please refer to your acceptance offer information for more information about how to pay your deposit.
- Once you have paid your deposit, you will receive communication from both Laurentian University and St. Lawrence College. This may come to either your personal email address (the one you indicated on your application) OR your new St. Lawrence College email address. Please check both email accounts frequently over the summer so you don't miss this important communication.

PRE- PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students may not be able to obtain their pre-placement requirements (noted below) at this time. All first year, incoming, students will receive a letter by email in mid-June 2020 with further information about how to obtain your CPIC/PRC clearance.

1. Police Record Check (PRC-previously called CPIC)

All students must have a CPIC or PRC completed before entry into each FALL semester. This must include a **check for vulnerable sectors**; a check that does not include vulnerable sector will not be accepted. If a CPIC/PRC comes back positive, we cannot guarantee that a clinical placement can be secured for them, as this is at the discretion of our clinical placement agencies and not at the discretion of the college or the BScN program. CPIC/PRC's must be checked by each placement coordinator at the beginning of each semester.

Students who require police checks via the OPP (as opposed to city police departments) do require a letter from the BScN program indicating they require the police check for school purposes. Please contact your specific campus for this letter.

Common questions

- I needed to get a CPIC/PRC for my summer employment. Can I use this for school purposes?
 - As long as it is dated after April 30, 2020 we can accept the document. The police check must last until the end of the winter semester, which is the end of April each year.
 - CPIC/PRC's are valid for one year; therefore they must be redone every year you are in the BScN program.
- The police detachment is offering an electronic version of my CPIC/PRC. Will that be accepted?
 - Yes, an electronic version can be provided as proof of clearance.
- If I am able to obtain a CPIC/PRC who do I send it to?
 - Do not send your document into the college. Students must retain their CPIC/PRC and upload this to our learning management system (Blackboard) upon start-up in the fall. Additional information regarding dates/deadlines and access to Blackboard will be contained in your summer letter.
- My police department is charging me for my CPIC/PRC. Will the college reimburse me for this charge?
 - No, this is the responsibility of the student to cover this charge.

2. First Aid Certification with CPR -HCP Level (Health Care Provider Level)

(now called Basic Life Support by several agencies)

Standard first aid certification with CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) HCP (health care provider level) is required (called Basic Life Support [BLS] by many agencies) no other level is accepted. First aid certification is only required upon entry into the BScN program, however, CPR is required to be re-certified annually (before the fall semester each year).

It does not matter what agency a student receives their certification as long as it meets the above criteria.

Many agencies have changed the name of the CPR courses this year; the student is responsible for ensuring that the course (whatever the agency calls it) meets our requirements of:

- CPR with AED (automated external defibrillators) at the Health Care Professional (HCP) level

Common questions

- I have standard first aid from my summer job a year (or two....) ago. Can I use this as my certification for entry?
 - We can only accept certifications completed **after April 30, 2020 for year 1 students**. Any certifications completed BEFORE this date will not be accepted. We need to ensure that the current certification remains current until the end of the semester (including potential clinical make up days).

- I completed my CPR certification this summer but it was Level A (or some other level). Is this acceptable?
 - No, certification must be at the HCP level (health care provider level). Some agencies will offer a short session to upgrade from Level A (or other level) to HCP but it is up to the student to investigate if that is possible.
- I took my first aid and CPR from XYZ agency; is this acceptable?
 - It does not matter what agency they take their certification from as long as it meets the above noted criteria.
- Who do I send my first aid and CPR documentation to?
 - Do not send your document into the college. Students must retain their First Aid and CPR certification and upload this to our learning management system (Blackboard) upon start-up in the fall. Additional information regarding dates/deadlines and access to Blackboard will be contained in your summer letter.
- Can I send the document/link to the website from the certifying agency, could you please check it to make sure that it is acceptable?
 - Unfortunately, no, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the chosen agency meets the above noted requirements. As we have almost 600 students across all 3 campuses, we couldn't possibly double check all agencies.
- Can I take my First Aid and CPR certification online?
 - No, online certification will not be accepted for CPR or First Aid.

3. Immunization Requirements

All immunization requirement questions must be directed to the Campus Health Centre. Immunization and health records are protected information by legislation; as such, only health care providers or designate can have access to these records. Please direct your inquiry to Immunizations@sl.on.ca. The required immunization form can be downloaded from the college website at <https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/programs-and-courses/full-time/degree-programs/>; please scroll down to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and click on the appropriate campus link. The immunization link is located on the lower right side of the page.

COMMUNICATION FROM LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY AND ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Once a student has paid their deposit and secured their acceptance, there will be correspondence sent from both St. Lawrence College and Laurentian University. Please retain this correspondence as it will include important information for your upcoming semester.

Common Questions

- Am I a St. Lawrence College (SLC) student or a Laurentian University (LU) student?
 - Students are both SLC and LU students; this means that you have access to both libraries at both institutions.
- Do I receive a SLC student number or a LU student number?

- You will receive both an SLC student number and an LU student number. It is important for you to retain both numbers for all four years of the program. You will require your LU number to log in to important resources at LU.
- Do I need to go to LU for any of my courses in the BScN program?
 - No, all four years of the program are offered at your SLC campus.
- Where do I get my degree from when I graduate?
 - You will receive your degree at SLC convocation ceremony; your degree is conferred by Laurentian University.
- I have applied to all 3 campuses at St. Lawrence College. If I start at one, am I able to transfer to another if I wish to do so?
 - Transfers between campuses are guided by space availability. There is no guarantee that a student would be able to transfer between campuses during the 4 years of the program. All transfer requests are reviewed in the middle of May each year. If there is space availability, decisions are made based on pre-determined criteria.

TIMETABLE/TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks

Textbook lists will be made available on your slc.me site mid-August (as long as all required fees have been paid).

Common questions

- Can I buy textbooks from Amazon (or other online sites)?
 - Students can choose to purchase textbooks from sites other than the college bookstore. However, they must be aware that some textbooks come with electronic codes for online nursing sites; some of these can only be purchased through the college bookstore as we ‘bundle’ these packages with the textbook publisher to achieve a reduced cost for the student. It is generally advised for students to wait to purchase textbooks until they begin classes.
- Can I buy used textbooks?
 - Students can purchase used textbooks, however, they are responsible for ensuring that they are purchasing the current edition of the textbook as noted in the course syllabus/appendix, or the bookstore booklist. If a student chooses to purchase an older edition of the textbook, it is their responsibility to determine the chapters and pages that are required to be read for class preparation. Course professors will not do this for the student.
- How much will my textbooks cost?
 - Typically, first year textbooks will cost approximately \$1300, however, many of these textbooks will be utilized in many courses throughout the 4 years of the program. Costs for textbooks for Year 2, 3 and 4 are typically less than first year costs.

- You may be able to rent some textbooks from campus bookstores.
- Are textbooks available for loan at the campus library?
 - Some textbooks are kept on reserve however, they would be in limited quantities.

Timetable

Timetables are made available late August, provided all required fees have been paid. Your timetable will be uploaded to your slc.me site once registration has been completed by our academic services assistants.

Common questions

- How many hours per week will I be in classes?
 - First year timetable includes approximately 25 hours per week. This includes time in your classes, labs and clinical placements; this does not include any time for readings or class/lab or clinical preparation. Students can expect to spend, on average, an additional 3+ hours per week/per course on preparation/readings etc.
- What is the passing grade for my courses?
 - All core nursing and science courses have a passing grade of 60%; electives have a passing grade of 50%.
- Do we have evening or weekend classes/lab/clinical?
 - Classes/labs/clinical can be scheduled in day, evening or weekends.
- Are all classes mandatory?
 - Yes, attendance is taken at each class and participation is encouraged.
- I have previous post-secondary education, am I eligible for transfer credits for electives?
 - Please see elective section below.
- Can I make my own schedule for labs and clinical?
 - All scheduling of labs/classes and clinical are done by our academic services assistant; changes to these schedules are not permitted.
 - Switching of labs cannot be done without the involvement of the course professor; these requests will only be considered in extenuating circumstances.
- I work/have children and therefore can't/don't want to have classes in the evening.
 - Unfortunately, evening classes, labs and clinical are an expectation in this program. We cannot make accommodations for this request.

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

Clinical placements begin at various times for each year of the program. Year 1 starts after reading week; Year 2, Year 3 and 4: first week of classes. Students do not get to choose their clinical placements (with some variability in upper years) and they are not permitted to try to find/secure their own placements. Students must be aware that clinical placements may take place on day shifts (0700-1500 or 0700-1900), evening shifts (1500-2300), or on weekends (either days or evenings). In your final semester (Year 4 consolidation) you will follow the

schedule of your preceptor which will include days, evening and night (1900-0700 or 2300-0700) shifts.

Common questions

- I want to buy my uniforms and stethoscope now. Where can I buy them?
 - It doesn't matter where students purchase their uniforms, however, they **MUST** be navy blue in colour for clinical placements. Stethoscopes are not typically required until second semester, however, students can purchase a stethoscope at any time. Brand/style/colour is not pre-determined by the program.
- I want to choose my own placement and/or be with my friend on placement. How can this be arranged?
 - Students cannot choose their placements, nor, do they have the option to choose who will be in their placement group.
- What kind of shoes do I need to wear for clinical?
 - Comfortable running shoes are required. The colour is up to student, however, we recommend non-neon colours and limited (ideally, no) mesh on the shoe (due to various fluids that may come into contact with the shoe).
- How do I get to clinical placement?
 - Transportation to and from clinical placement is the responsibility of the student.

ELECTIVES/PREVIOUS POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION (Transfer Credits)

Electives

Students require 5 electives for graduation requirements. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all elective requirements are met prior to graduation. Students are required to take an elective in the following semesters:

Semester 1: 1 elective

Semester 2: 1 elective

Semester 3: 1 elective

Semester 6: 1 elective

Semester 7: 1 elective

Information regarding available electives and how to register will be sent out to students in late August. Students who have not met their payment deadlines will not receive this information until all payments are completed.

Common questions

- I don't want to take an elective in my first (or other) semester.

- Electives are placed in the program by the approved LU program of study. It is recommended that students take the electives in accordance to this schedule. If you wish to defer an elective, it is best to speak to the appropriate year coordinator on your campus to discuss this.
- I am not interested in any of the electives that are offered.
 - Unfortunately, these are the options that are available for this semester. All electives must be approved by Laurentian University and are based on availability of course professors.
- Can I take an elective from Laurentian University?
 - Electives must be taken at SLC. Students do have the option to register for online courses in the spring/summer semester at LU, however, this is an additional cost to the student.
- I have read about the cross-cultural electives and the critical care electives in the program. Will I be able to take one of those electives?
 - Students must apply for these electives. Due to the required knowledge base and scope of practice, these electives are not available for students in the first year of the program. Upper year students are eligible to apply for these electives, as per the application process, however, as space is limited, all applications are based upon the student's grade point average (GPA).

Transfer credits

When a student applies to the BScN program through the provincial application site, they are required to disclose all previous post-secondary education (PSE). This information is then sent to Laurentian University (LU) for review. LU is the institution that determines if previous PSE can be credited towards the BScN program. This information may be provided to students during the summer, but often is not received until late August or into the first few weeks of September. Typically, students who have previous PSE from a university will be credited with some transfer credits towards their electives. Students who have graduated from a 2-year (or more) college program and have achieved the required GPA (this is determined by LU) may also be eligible for transfer credits. We cannot assume that a student will receive transfer credits until we receive notification from LU.

Common questions

- I don't want to register for electives because I know I will get transfer credits.
 - It is recommended to register for the elective and then withdraw from the elective if you do receive transfer credits.
- I haven't heard anything about transfer credits.
 - Transfer credits are determined by LU; this process takes time and therefore you may not hear about your transfer credits until mid-September.
- I took some courses at an adult community college OR I took a year of Pre-Health Science (or another less than 2-year college program). What transfer credits will I receive?
 - Transfer credits are not provided for courses/programs taken at adult community learning centers OR from college programs of less than 2 years.

- I took my PN program (or another 2 year + program) many years ago. Can I receive transfer credits for this?
 - Transfer credits are determined by LU; if the course meets the requirements AND your GPA meets the required expectations by LU then you may be eligible for transfer credits.
- I took 6 months of PSE and then I took another 6 months of another program which adds up to more than 2 years total. Can I receive transfer credits?
 - No, you must have completed a 2 year+ diploma program to be eligible for consideration for transfer credits. If you took courses at a university level but did not complete a degree, LU may provide credit for some of those courses.

REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

Registration for classes is completed by the academic services assistants at each campus. Students are not required to ‘choose’ their classes as the curriculum is set. The only exception to this is your elective courses, as noted above. Students will not be registered for classes until all fees are paid.

TUITION/FEE PAYMENT/FUNDING

All fee payment deadlines will have been provided to you upon your acceptance. They are also available on your slc.me site. If you have any questions regarding payment of tuition/ancillary fees or other school related expenses, please contact our Student Services department. Funding through OSAP or additional funding can be accessed through our Student Services department; contact information would have been provided to you in your acceptance package. Students must pay the \$250 deposit by the identified deadline in order to secure their seat in the program. If this deadline is missed, the offer of acceptance will be rescinded.

ACCOMMODATIONS/STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for learning support must be requested through the AccessAbility department at the college.

Common Question:

- What student support services are available for students (such as tutoring, math and writing)
 - All information regarding student support services can be located on the college website at <https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/campuses-and-services/campus-services/>

BLACKBOARD SITES/SLC EMAIL

[Blackboard](#)

Blackboard is our learning management system (LMS) and the primary means of communication for the BScN program and its students. Students will have received information about access to Blackboard in their acceptance package/correspondence. Course Blackboard hubs will be made available to students at the end of August.

Email

Students will have been provided an email address upon payment of their deposit. Students must check their SLC email on a regular basis throughout the summer. Please note that initial correspondence from LU and SLC may be sent to the email address you indicated upon your application; please be sure to check this account along with your SLC email account frequently over the summer.

Common question:

- I would rather use my personal email address. Can this be my default address?
 - No, in order to ensure secured communications, students are to only use their SLC student email address to correspond with faculty or other college employees.