

Guideline: NESA BN Program Fast Track Option Application

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guideline is to outline the application process for students interested in applying for the Fast Track Option within the four-year NESA BN Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Fast Track Option enables a portion of each cohort to complete the BN Program by the end of December, rather than the end of April of the fourth year. This group of students will complete Term VII of the Program during the Summer Sessions, and Term VIII in the Fall.

DEFINITIONS:

GUIDELINE SCOPE:

This guideline applies to all students enrolled in the NESA BN 4-year Program.

SPECIFICS OF THE GUIDELINE:

Academic Criteria for the Fast Track Option is as follows:

1. Students will be invited to a Fast Track Option information session in the winter semester of Year 2 of the program.
2. Students applying for the Fast Track Option must have completed all courses counted towards NESA BN Program requirements (including courses taken at the Lethbridge Polytechnic or courses transferred from other institutions that are used to meet program requirements).
3. Students must be in good standing (i.e. not Academic Probation) at time of application for this program option, including a minimum GPA of 3.3, which must be maintained throughout the first semester at the University of Lethbridge.
4. Students with a history of prior course withdrawals, removal from praxis courses, or documented practice concerns (EPs) will have their eligibility for the Fast Track Option reviewed by the Academic Advisor, Nursing. The review will determine whether additional supports, conditions, or requirements are needed to ensure readiness for accelerated progression.

Process for Application:

1. Students who meet the GPA and course qualifications will be invited to complete the Fast Track Option application form and it must be returned to the Academic Advisor, Nursing, in the Faculty of Health Sciences Office at the University of Lethbridge by the stated due date on the application.
2. A Fast-Track Reference Form for Instructors (Appendix A) will then be emailed to a recent practice instructor. The instructor will complete the online form and submit it to the Academic Advisor, Nursing.
3. The Instructor Reference form, student application form, and related documents will be assessed by the Assistant Dean, Nursing and Academic Advisor, Nursing.
4. Approval of the application by the Assistant Dean, Nursing and Academic Advisor, Nursing is contingent upon meeting the criteria specified above.
5. A decision regarding approval or denial of the application is emailed to the student by the Academic Advisor.
6. Students will be randomly chosen from the approved applicant pool for the Fast Track Option in the event there is more interest than available space.
7. Students who have met the criteria and are selected will be sent a letter of offer.
8. Students must submit a signed and dated letter of offer to the Faculty of Health Sciences office prior to the deadline stated on the letter of offer.
9. Should a student decline the offer, alternate letters of offer are initiated until the quota is filled.
10. Successful graduates are eligible to write the NCLEX-RN exam in January of the year following completion of the program; they will be noted as a "fall completer" on the U of L transcript and eligible to attend Spring convocation.
11. Students who accept the offer to the Fast Track Option are unable to return to the regular stream.
12. If a student were subsequently placed on probation or were to drop below the minimum GPA requirement for the NESA BN Program Fast Track Option, the student risks removal from the Fast Track sequence with potential return to the standard program sequencing. The student will be notified by the Academic Advisor at the University of Lethbridge in the event this was to occur.
13. A waitlist of denied applicants will be retained in the event any vacancy was to occur prior to Term VII commencing.

APPENDIX:

Appendix A: Reference Form for Instructors

RELATED POLICIES/ASSOCIATED GUIDELINES:

REFERENCES:

NOTE: NESA Guidelines exist within organizational frameworks of policy for Lethbridge Polytechnic and the University of Lethbridge, and within agreements established with practice partner organizations. If and when NESA guidelines are found to differ from such policies and agreements, it is important to note that such policies/agreements will take precedence over NESA guidelines or policies.

Revised By/date:	Approved by/date:
Policy Review Committee: April 2015	Not Required: editorial and formatting
Policy Review Committee: April 2016	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: April 2017	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: December 2017	Not Required: no change
Policy Review Committee: January 2019	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: February 2020	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: January 2021	Not Required: editorial changes
Policy Review Committee: April 2022	Not Required: no change
Academic Advisor & Assistant Dean, Nursing, University of Lethbridge: December 2025	NESA Joint Faculty Council: December 2025

Appendix A: NURSING 3322 Fast Track Reference Form

You have been identified as an appropriate clinical reference for a student requesting the Fast Track Option within the four-year NESA BN Program. Please assess the student on the following parameters. Indicate where on the scale this student fell upon completion of your clinical course, in relation to other students you have taught, at the same point in the program.

STUDENT: _____ INSTRUCTOR: _____

Click on the appropriate score on the scale below each question. Note that "0" is interpreted as "UNACCEPTABLE" and "10" is considered Superior.

1. The student demonstrates an above-average ability to apply information and concepts taught in theoretical courses such as pathophysiology, pharmacology, and principles of nursing care to their clinical practice.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

2. The student consistently completed thorough, relevant, organized patient research for each clinical week.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3. The student consistently demonstrated strong time management and organizational skills when providing patient care during each scheduled shift.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. The student consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism when communicating with patients, instructors, peers, and multi-disciplinary team members.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

5. The student consistently took the initiative to complete all tasks related to patient care and the nursing role with minimal prompting and independently sought out additional learning opportunities when able.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ Recommended for Fast Track Option within the four-year NESA BN Program

☐ Not Recommended for Fast Track Option within the four-year NESA BN Program

Please provide commentary and/or examples of student performance that support your recommendation for the specific Fast Track Option request: