



# PRIMARY CARE PARAMEDIC

## FAQ

### ***How long is the program?***

The PCP program is a 40 week certificate program delivered over one year with 1 clinical placement and 1 ambulance placement.

### ***What do I need to get into the program?***

The following are the minimum academic requirements for the program:

- English 30 (30-1) with a minimum 60% in or English 33 (30-2) with a minimum 70%
- Math 20 Pure or Math 20-1 with a minimum 50% or Math 20 - Applied or Math 20-2 with a minimum 60%
- Biology 30 with a minimum of 60%
- Chemistry 30 strongly recommended

\* ESL – ALL students whose first language is not English must meet one of the following:

- IELTS Academic Format with minimum scores as follows: Listening 7.5; Reading 6.5; Writing 7.0; Speaking 7.0.
- TOEFL IBT (internet based) with minimum test scores as follows: Listening 23; Reading 21; Writing 25; Speaking 22.
- Testing must have been completed within two years prior to application to the program.

### ***What is a blended delivery program and where can I take it?***

- The PCP blended program is offered at our Lac La Biche campus.
- Blended delivery means that there are multiple ways that the courses are delivered. All theory courses are taught online with instructors providing teaching sessions using Collaborate. These sessions are recorded so students have the ability to watch and listen to them repeatedly. Lab courses include face to face onsite lab weeks (you are required to attend onsite weeks at the Lac La Biche campus).
- There are 10 mandatory onsite weeks throughout the 1 year program.

- Some written exams are scheduled during the onsite weeks and some exams will require proctoring/supervision at any Portage College Campus or an approved invigilator site when not at the Lac La Biche campus.
- Students are responsible for all costs associated with travel and lodging for onsite weeks and exam invigilation external to Portage College.

### ***Is a blended program the same as an online distance program ?***

No, distance means that all courses can be taken online without having to be on campus. Blended is just a way to say that we have more than one way that we offer our courses (face-to-face and Collaborate).

### ***Can I work while taking the PCP program?***

This is a full time program and students can expect to spend an average of 6-10 hours per course studying each week. It can be challenging to work and keep up with the requirements of a full time program.

### ***Are there any placements?***

- Students have 2 placements during their 1 year program.
- There is a 36 hour preceptor led clinical placement in a healthcare Emergency Room setting in May. Students work with an RN or LPN during this placement.
- There is a 240 hour preceptor led ambulance placement in May and June. Students are assigned to a registered PCP/ACP and transition to the role of a graduate PCP.
- All clinical placements require travel and students are responsible for all associated costs. Students are not guaranteed to be placed in their home/work communities and need to plan for the resources (expenses, child care, etc.) to travel and possibly live away from home during the placement.

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### ***How much does it cost to take the program?***

- Tuition per year is approximately \$4353
- Fees (student association, comprehensive, tech, rec, network) are approximately \$670
- Textbooks, supplies, iPad/Android tablet and uniforms are approx. \$3785
- Travel, food and accommodation expenses for onsite weeks in Lac La Biche
- Travel, food and accommodation expenses for placements vary
- Invigilation exam costs vary from site to site; all exams may be written in a Portage College Campus at no cost to the student
- An iPad or Android tablet is required for use with the Comptracker program

### ***What if I have taken some courses at another college?***

You can apply for advanced credit if you think a course you have taken is similar to one offered at Portage College. You are required to pay a fee for advanced credit assessment, provide a course outline of the course you have taken and an official transcript of your marks. Until you have heard from the registrars' office whether you have been granted credit for the course, you are required to attend the Portage College course.

### ***Will any of my courses transfer to other institutions?***

The program has 5 University courses that are taken in the PCP program that are transferable. These are BIO 230 Anatomy, BIO 231 Physiology, BIO 232 Pathophysiology, HEED 235 Health Education and COMM 105 Communications.

### ***Are there any options for part-time studies for the PCP program?***

The PCP program is full-time and oversubscribed. Students who are not admitted following the selection process may choose to take some University Transfer courses part-time in preparation for the next intake. Students should discuss their options with the Advisor or Program Coordinator. Students need to be aware, however, that the program must be completed within 3 years of starting.



### ***What if I only need one or two courses a semester? Do I pay the full tuition?***

- If you require 1 or 2 courses you can pay by credit. There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee and the charge is \$130/credit. Most of the courses are 3 credit courses.
- If you are taking 3 to 5 courses, you are required to pay the full semester tuition amount.

### ***When is the program delivered?***

- The PCP blended program is offered yearly starting in the fall semester.
- This is an oversubscribed program with a selection process so students are advised to apply early and submit all documents as soon as possible.

### ***How can I get more information about this program?***

For more information about blended delivery in this program and what to expect as a student, please contact the Paramedicine Program Coordinator. Call toll free: 1-866-623-5551 ext. 6690 for more info.

You can also email: [info@portagecollege.ca](mailto:info@portagecollege.ca) or check the Portage College website at: [www.portagecollege.ca](http://www.portagecollege.ca).

