PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER (PSWC)

About the Program

This one-year certificate program is designed to teach you how to effectively provide care and assistance to clients and families in order to live fulfilling lives in their communities and in institutions. As a student of this program, you will develop a broad range of abilities emphasizing value, true sensitivity and respect for the individuality of each client. You will also have the opportunity to participate in cross disciplinary and/or inter-professional learning opportunities with other members of the care and service team for example, Practical Nursing, Registered Nursing and Social Service Workers.

Part-time option is available > (http://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/ce/community/health-care/personal-support-worker.html)

Credential Awarded

Ontario College Certificate

Duration

2 Semesters (1 Year)

Starts

January, May, September

Program and Course Delivery

This program is offered in Seneca's hybrid delivery format. Some coursework is online and some must be completed in person. Students will need to come on campus to complete in-person learning requirements.

Skills

Throughout this program you will develop the following skills:

- Personal care and hygiene assistance
- Household and family management
- Meal preparation
- Medical assistance
- Palliative and restorative activities

Work Experience

Field Placement

As a student of this program, if you meet all the academic requirements, you will have the opportunity to participate in two field placements. Field placements are similar in length to an academic semester and typically involve full-time work hours that may be paid or unpaid.

The Personal Support Worker program will provide opportunities for experiential learning through the hands-on skills lab and 2 field placements (facility and community).

Your Career

Graduates of the program can explore the following career options:

- The community
- Retirement homes
- Long-term care homes
- Hospital care settings

Program of Study

Course Code	Course Name	Weekly Hours
Semester 1		
COM101	Communicating Across Contexts	3
or COM111	Communicating Across Contexts (Enriched)	
PSW115	Introduction to Personal Support Worker	3
PSW120	Client and Family Centred Care	3
PSW125	Human Body and Illness Management	3
PSW130	Fundamental Skills for the Personal Support Worker	4
PSW135	Safe Client Care	3
Semester 2		
Weeks 1 - 9		
PSW225	Palliative Care Across Contexts	4
PSW230	Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment	4
PSW235	Practicum Placement-Facility	16
Weeks 10 - 14		
PSW240	Practicum Placement-Preceptorship	32

Program Learning Outcomes

This Seneca program has been validated by the Credential Validation Service as an Ontario College Credential as required by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

As a graduate, you will be prepared to reliably demonstrate the ability to:

- Work within the personal support worker role in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital care settings in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's job description, policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Act responsibly and be accountable for own actions while recognizing the boundaries of knowledge and skills within the personal support worker role that require collaboration with the clients, families, supervisors and/or other members of the interprofessional care/service team.
- Participate as a member of the interprofessional care/service team and maintain collaborative working relationships in the provision of supportive care in community, retirement homes, long-term care homes and/or hospital care settings.
- Provide client-centred and client-directed care that is based on ethical principles, sensitive to diverse client and family values, beliefs and needs, and which follows the direction of the plan of care/service plan.
- Establish and maintain helping relationships with clients and their families reflecting open communication, professional boundaries, employer's policies and adhering to confidentiality and privacy legislation.
- Identify relevant client information using basic assessment and communication skills and report and document findings in accordance

with the requirements of employer policies and procedures and all applicable legislation.

- Promote and maintain a safe and comfortable environment for clients, their families, self and others including the implementation of infection prevention and control measures and emergency first aid procedures that are in keeping with the plan of care/service plan, employer policies and procedures, and all applicable legislation.
- Assist clients across the lifespan with routine activities of daily living by applying basic knowledge of growth and development, common alterations in functioning, disease prevention, health promotion and maintenance, rehabilitation and restorative care.
- Assist clients with medication in keeping with the direction of the plan of care/service plan and under the direction and monitoring of a regulated health professional or most accountable person and in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's policies.
- Assist with household management tasks and instrumental activities of daily living in accordance with the plan of care/service plan and considering the preferences, comfort and safety of clients, families and significant others.
- Assist clients who are caring for dependent individuals considering client and family choices, professional boundaries and the direction of the plan of care/service plan.
- Identify and report situations of neglect, and potential, alleged or witnessed/actual incidents of abuse, and respond in accordance with all applicable legislation and employer's policies and procedures.
- Assist in the provision of culturally relevant palliative and end-of life care to clients experiencing life threatening illness and to their families and significant others, from diagnosis through death and bereavement, and in accordance with clients' choices and the plan of care/service plan.
- Use identified approaches and best practices to support positive and safe behaviour in clients experiencing cognitive impairment, mental health challenges and/or responsive behaviours.

Admission Requirements

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), or equivalent, or a mature applicant (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html)
- English: Grade 12 C or U, or equivalent course

Canadian citizens and permanent residents may satisfy the English requirements for this program through successful Seneca pre-admission testing. (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html)

Recommended upgrading for applicants who do not meet academic subject requirements. (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options.html)

Additional Information

To be eligible for clinical practicum placements, students must have a completed Clinical Preparedness Permit which includes:

Medical Requirements

- current immunization records as outlined in the Canadian Immunization Guide for health-care workers
- bloodwork for immune status of hepatitis B/varicella/measles/mumps and rubella
- TB testing/CXR as required

Non-Medical Requirements

- a current Basic Life Support Certificate renewed annually
- Standard First Aid valid for four years, online courses are not acceptable
- record of mask fit test, renewed every two years
- criminal record check and vulnerable sector screening (annually)

Transportation

Clinical practicum placements are in a variety of agencies in the Greater Toronto Area. Students are required to provide their own transportation. Placements may be six-, 10- or 12-hour days starting as early as 6 a.m. and may include weekends and evenings.

International Student Information

International admissions requirements vary by program and in addition to English requirements (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/english-requirements.html), programs may require credits in mathematics, biology, and chemistry at a level equivalent to Ontario's curriculum, or a postsecondary degree or diploma, equivalent to an Ontario university or college. Program-specific pre-requisite courses and credentials are listed with the admission requirements on each program page. To review the academic requirements please visit: Academic Requirements - Seneca, Toronto, Canada (senecapolytechnic.ca) (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/academic-requirements.html).

Pathways

As a leader in academic pathways, we offer a range of options that will allow you to take your credential further in another Seneca program or a program at a partner institution.

To learn more about your eligibility, visit the Academic Pathways (https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/pathways.html) web page.