



# Foundations of Oncology Nursing Practice

## Course Syllabus

**Course Lead:**

Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke, RN, MN, BScN, CON(C)

**Associate Faculty:**

Donalda Macdonald, RN, CON(C)

### Course Description:

This online course will introduce nurses to the art and science of oncology nursing practice. Oncology patients receive care from all health care settings - including acute care teaching hospitals, tertiary centres, general hospitals and community care. Given the increasing complexity of this growing patient population, caring for people with cancer and their families involves a particular set of advanced skills and knowledge.

This course will introduce nurses to essential concepts in oncology nursing practice and provide fundamental information to those who work with oncology patients. Emphasis will be placed on psychosocial skills and competencies throughout all units.

Although learners can complete the various components of the course at their own pace, the course must be completed in its entirety **within one year of initial start date**.

### Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Explain cell biology and genetics in both the cancer process and throughout all stages of the cancer trajectory
- Summarize the disease process for the major types of cancers in Canada
- Compare and contrast the various oncologic emergencies and associated manifestations of symptoms
- Describe the psychosocial impact of cancer and demonstrate interventions for nursing practice
- Develop strategies for patient teaching along the cancer care trajectory
- Demonstrate the nurses role in the care of patients in all areas of the cancer care trajectory

### Course Prerequisites:

This is an introductory course to oncology nursing principles. All nurses who are working with patients living with cancer or have an interest in learning more about oncology are encouraged to participate. Once you receive your username and password, please ensure that you complete the eLearning Orientation Course before you begin the Foundations Course.

### Modes of Learning:

The course will be delivered in seven sections within the de Souza eLearning Centre (see course outline for details). Participants may work through each module independently and at their own pace.

### Modes of Evaluation:

Learners will be tested on their knowledge after each section via an online assessment. In order to receive a certificate of completion, learners must receive at least 70% on each course test.

To receive a certificate of course completion (which can be used towards the *de Souza Designation*), learners must:

- Earn at least 70% on each end of section test.  
(Note: there is a maximum of two attempts per test in each section)
- Complete all assessments within **one year** of course start date

**Audience:**

This course is designed for **any** nurse with an interest in oncology. This course is also open to any nurse in Ontario who cares for cancer patients at any phase along the cancer care continuum may take this course. Nursing students studying within Ontario are also eligible to enroll in *Foundations of Oncology Nursing Practice*.

## Course Outline

Section	Unit	Faculty Lead
<b>Section 1: Introduction to Oncology Nursing</b>	Unit 1: Lab Values	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 2: Cell Biology	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 3: Carcinogenesis	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 4: Navigating the Cancer Continuum	Joanne Crawford
<b>Section 2: Epidemiology, Health Promotion &amp; Diagnostics</b>	Unit 1: Canadian Cancer Statistics	Joanne Crawford
	Unit 2: Health Promotion & Prevention	Joanne Crawford
	Unit 3: Patient Teaching	Joanne Crawford
	Unit 4: Diagnostics	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
<b>Section 3: Cancer Treatments</b>	Unit 1: Surgery	Bradley Walsh
	Unit 2: Radiation	Joanne Crawford
	Unit 3: Chemotherapy & Biotherapy	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 4: Bone Marrow Transplant	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
<b>Section 4: Oncologic</b>	Unit 1: Structural and Metabolic Emergencies	Donalda Macdonald & Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke

<b>Emergencies</b>		
<b>Section 5: Psychosocial Oncology</b>	Unit 1: Screening for Distress Unit 2: Sexuality Unit 3: Cancer Survivorship	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
<b>Section 6: Symptom Management</b>	Unit 1: Pain , Fatigue, Nausea, Dyspnea, Neutropenia, Mucositis, Neuropathies, Constipation, Diarrhea	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
<b>Section 6: Cancer Sites</b>	Unit 1: Lung	Donalda Macdonald & Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 2: Prostate	Donalda Macdonald & Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 3: Breast	Donalda Macdonald & Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 4: Colorectal	Joanne Crawford & Donalda Macdonald
	Unit 5: Lymphomas/Leukemia	Donalda Macdonald & Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 6: Sarcoma	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 7: Multiple Myeloma	Donalda Macdonald & Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 8: Skin Cancers	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 9: Pediatric Cancers	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 10: Gynecological Cancers	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 11: Genitourinary Cancers (e.g. bladder, kidney)	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke
	Unit 12: Gastrointestinal cancers (e.g. stomach, liver)	Donalda Macdonald

	Unit 13: Head & Neck Cancers	Donalda Macdonald
	Unit 14: Endocrine Cancers (e.g. thyroid, pancreatic)	Donalda Macdonald
	Unit 15: Neurological Cancers	Ashleigh Pugh-Clarke

### Expectations for Participation:

Participants can choose to engage in the course in whichever way they feel necessary. In order to obtain a certificate of completion, participants must successfully complete (>70%) all end of section tests. A certificate of completion may be used towards achieving a *de Souza Designation*. Please note that all participant activity can be tracked within the de Souza eLearning centre.