

Neonatal Education and Specialty Training (NEST) Program

The Interior Health neonatal training program is a blended learning program that enables RNs to work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth Network and the Professional Practice Office have jointly approved the program to satisfy the advanced preparation required within the neonatal specialty.

The program is a blend of part-time study (12 weeks) and full time training (12 weeks) with a systematic integration of online and face-to-face learning, aimed to facilitate critical thinking within the context of neonatal care. The program uses a standardized, evidence informed online curriculum offered by the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) called the Neonatal Orientation and Education Program (NOEP), the Acute Care of at-Risk Newborns (ACoRN), the University of British Columbia’s Kangaroo Care and Perinatal Substance Use, SafeCare Level 1 and Step 2 Breastfeeding Essentials. ***Neonatal Resuscitation Program within 2 years.**

NEST has three components: theory, lab and preceptorship

Required Theory		Instructor led Lab/Simulation	Preceptorship led Clinical Practicum	Total Length of Program
Part-Time Study (12 weeks)		Full-Time Training – all hours remunerated (12 weeks)		24 weeks
*AWHONN	54.5 hours	75 hours	339 hours (perinatal)	517 hours
*ACoRN	7.5 hours			
*UBC	7 hours		383 hours (non-perinatal)	561 hours
SafeCare	12 hours			
STEP 2	22 hours			

**Completed prior to progression to full-time training. Hours to complete theory is an average estimate and may take longer to complete for some learners. Access to on-line modules is purchased by the Professional Practice Office – time to complete theory/study are unpaid hours as employee investment in their education.*

Additional program information may be found in the [NEST Syllabus](#).