



PRACTICAL NURSING

Length of Program

Length of Program Varies
Advanced Technical Certificate

The Practical Nursing Program is operated with the approval of the State Board of Nursing. The student graduates with an Advanced Technical Certificate and is required to pass a state licensure examination to become a licensed practical nurse.

Applicants who complete all prerequisite courses with a “C-” or better and have fulfilled all of the other entrance requirements are eligible to be accepted into the nursing program. Enrollment in the Practical Nursing Program is limited. Because of the number applicants, completion of all admission requirements does not ensure acceptance into the program. Candidates for admission are selected from the pool of qualified applicants using a point-based process.

Practical nurses are integral members of the health care team who care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Practical nurses assess clients for educational, physiological, psychosocial, comfort, and safety needs; assist in planning and coordinating care; and gather data. They provide basic bedside care, take vital signs, do dressings and treatments, insert catheters, collect samples from clients for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, administer prescribed medications, and start intravenous fluids. Some experienced LPN’s supervise unlicensed assistive personnel.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate effective verbal, non-verbal, written and technological communication, in both, professional and interpersonal relationships, in a variety of healthcare settings through the use of therapeutic communication skills.
- Demonstrate competency in basic nursing skills utilizing critical thinking in applying the nursing process in a compassionate and caring manner during interactions with the client, families, and communities while being nonjudgmental of cultural, religious, and ethnic differences.
- Demonstrate competent and safe nursing skills and requisite knowledge necessary for the entry level practical nurse utilizing the nursing process, evidenced based practice, and the state scope of practice.
- Acknowledge that nursing is dynamic and is a profession where personal growth is ongoing and requires active lifelong learning.
- Demonstrate accountability, professional values, and ethical behavior within the scope of practice of the state nurse practice act and the policy and procedures of the employing institutions.
- Demonstrate entry level ability to problem solve, organize, prioritize, and make clinical judgments in a variety of healthcare settings while working as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team.

- Demonstrate proficiency in performing nursing skills that meet client needs while providing cost-effective and appropriate care.

Entrance Requirements

In addition to the requirements for all health care programs, the applicant must have:

- TEAS exam with cut scores of 60 in each area for maximum point consideration.
- Documentation of CNA certification
- Admission packet submitted by deadline of each semester (see website for information)
- Background Check done through a site approved by the college.
- Possible interview with program faculty

Program Continuation Requirements

- Must complete professional component of program within six semesters from entrance date.
- All program specific courses must be passed with a minimum of 75% and proficiency testing at a pre-determined level. Courses must be passed consecutively prior to continuing on to the next course.

Program Costs

In addition to the registration fees, a Practical Nursing student can expect to spend an approximate total of \$3,700 on books, uniforms, supplies, ATI and other testing fees, NCLEX application, and graduation. For further information refer to the nursing student handbook.

Practical Nursing

Advanced Technical Certificate

58 Credits

Prerequisite Component

To be completed prior to entering the professional component of the program:

BIO 250	General Microbiology	3 AND
BIO 250L	General Microbiology Lab	1
BIO 227	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4 AND
BIO 227L	Human Anatomy and Physiology Lab I	0
BIO 228	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4 AND
BIO 228L	Human Anatomy and Physiology Lab II	0
ENG 101	English Composition	3
HCT 100	Introduction to Health Professions	2
HCT 101	Medical Terminology	2
HCT 118	Certificated Nursing Assistant Training	4 OR
	CNA Certification	4
HCT 121	Professionalism for Health Careers	1
MAT 112	Mathematics for Health Professions	3

Professional Component

To be completed in a minimum of three or a maximum of six semesters:

NRS 107	Introduction to Pharmacology	3
NRS 115	Fundamentals of Nursing I	4
NRS 116	Fundamentals of Nursing II	4
NRS 143	Foundations of Medical/Surgical Nursing I	5
NRS 243	Foundations of Medical/Surgical Nursing II	5
NRS 144	Foundations of Mental Health Nursing	3
NRS 207	Introduction to Maternal/Child Nursing	4
NRS 208	Leadership	3