

CERTIFICATE NURSING

PRACTICAL NURSING CERTIFICATE LEADING TO LPN (157)

About Our Program

The Practical Nursing curriculum is designed to prepare beginning practitioners with the knowledge and skills to care for patients of all age groups. Students will be prepared to assist in meeting the health needs of the community through provision of quality nursing care as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN). The program length is three semesters (one year). This program has been approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.

Opportunities For Employment

Opportunities for the Licensed Practical Nurse include employment in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, day-care centers, school systems, physicians' offices, rehabilitation facilities, industry, the military, home health, and private duty nursing.

Opportunities For Advancement

Many LPNs desire to further their education and pursue a degree as Registered Nurse. An LPN to RN bridge program is available for interested students. Many LPNs choose to practice as an LPN, but may specialize in a particular field of medicine such as Obstetrics, Oncology, Surgery, or Rehabilitative Services.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Practical Nursing program is a selective process. The practical nursing program is open to applicants who are free of any physical or mental condition which might adversely affect performance as a member of the nursing profession. In addition to the requirements for admission to the college, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Graduation from high school with an overall "C" average or satisfactory completion of the GED.
2. The completion of one unit of algebra and biology with a grade of "C" or better.
3. Applicant's high school and col-

lege academic record must reflect a minimum of "C" average.

4. Completion of college placement tests (ASSET or COMPASS) and prescribed developmental work. Students must complete all development work prior to admission into the practical nursing program.
5. Completion of the special physical examination, including the immunization schedule prior to beginning nursing course.
6. Completion of Health Science Program Application for each academic year interested in being considered for the practical nursing program.

Students should refer to the Practical Nursing Admission Process and the Health Science Program Application for published deadlines and admission criteria.

Special Note

The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny license to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3008 of the Code of Virginia. Any student entering the practical nursing program who has committed any legal offenses other than minor traffic violations should discuss these matters with the Program Director of the Practical Nursing Program prior to application.

Program Requirements

The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college, off campus educational facilities, and selected community agencies such as hospitals, nursing homes, physician's offices and comparable facilities. The practical nursing faculty will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for nursing and direct patient care.

The practical nursing program faculty reserves the right to recommend, through appropriate channels, the withdrawal of any student who does not exhibit suitable demeanor/attendance.

Student must complete all first semester courses prior to completing any second semester courses; all second semester courses must be completed prior to completed any third semester courses.

Physical demands in this program include duties that frequently require squatting; bending; kneeling; reaching; stair climbing; lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds; frequent pushing and pulling up to 200 pounds with assistance; occasional lifting up to 200 pounds with assistance and occasional carrying up to 51-74 pounds. Duties also require constant use of sight, hearing, touch, and speech. Environmental conditions include procedures that involve handling blood and body fluids using standard precautions.

Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening

Background checks for criminal history and sex offender crimes against minors are required for entrance into some clinical agencies. Students with convictions must be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Clinical agencies may require drug testing prior to placement of students for clinical rotations. Students with positive drug test results may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Cost of criminal background checks and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student.

Program Progression

Any student who earns a final grade lower than “C” in any PNE course or HLT 130 must repeat the course and earn a final grade of “C” or better before taking the next course of sequence.

A student must obtain permission from the Director to continue in the Practical Nursing Program under the following conditions:

1. repeating a course with a grade below “C”
2. cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Virginia Community College System policy states that no course may be taken more than twice (original enrollment and one repeat). Any exception to this policy must be approved by the program director and the vice president of academic and student services.

Special Considerations

Practical Nursing is an academically rigorous program, but one having the potential to provide a rewarding career for participants.

Practical Nursing classes begin in the fall and spring of each year. This program is a limited enrollment program that accepts a maximum of 25 students in the spring semester and 30 students in the fall semester.

Students are responsible for the following costs in addition to tuition, fees, and books costs: uniforms, CPR/First aid certification, immunizations, physical exam, medical equipment such as stethoscope and other assessment equipment, and a testing assessment and review program throughout the program. Students are also responsible for their own transportation to clinical sites.

Program Contacts

Dr. Ross Santell, Dean
 Ms. Norma Calhoun, Ms. Brigitte Casteel
 Location: Robb Hall - First Floor

*Lec/Lab Crse
 Hrs./Hrs. Cr.*

FIRST YEAR

First Semester

ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
PNE 120	Intro to Nursing Process	1	0	1
PNE 151	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3	3	4
PNE 155*	Body Structure & Function	3	0	3
PNE 161	Nursing-Health Changes I	4	6	6
SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
	Total			18

Second Semester

PNE 143	Applied Nursing Skills	0	3	1
PNE 152	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	3	3	4
PNE 173	Pharmacology for PNs	2	0	2
PNE 174*	Applied Pharm for PNs	1	0	1
	or MTH 126 Math for Allied Health	2	0	2
PNE 181	Clinical Experience I	0	15	5
PSY 232	Life Span Dev. Psych II	3	0	3
	Total			16/17

Third Semester

HLT 130	Nutrition & Diet Therapy	1	0	1
PNE 135	Maternity & Ped. Nursing	3	3	4
PNE 145	Trends in Practical Nursing	1	0	1
PNE 158	Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing	1	0	1
PNE 182	Clinical Experience II	0	18	6
PSY 231	Life Span Dev. Psych I	3	0	3
	Total			17

51/52 credits required to graduate

*Students may substitute BIO 141/BIO 142 for PNE 155; may substitute MTH 126 fro PNE 174.