

PRACTICAL NURSING TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE

The Practical Nursing (PN) program is designed to prepare students for employment in the health care field and for the national licensure exam for practical nurses. Students attend classes for three full semesters with the summer off. Class size is limited with 35-45 students accepted in the fall and spring semesters. Students in the Practical Nursing program must pass a drug test and a criminal background check. Drug tests may be administered at any time during the program.

Students spend time in the classroom and in clinical experiences. Practical Nursing students are prepared for giving direct and primary nursing care under the immediate supervision of the clinical instructor, staff R.N., and/or physicians in the cooperating clinical facilities. Clinical labs are completed in nursing homes, hospitals, and other healthcare facilities. Clinical practicum is planned to provide students with varied experiences; therefore, students may have a portion of their clinical experience in facilities in Malvern, Arkadelphia, Hot Springs, Benton, and Little Rock.

Students who complete the program will be eligible to apply for the National Licensure Exam for Practical Nursing and should have acquired the skills and performance of nursing skills in the health field. Instruction consists of theory and supervised practice in areas required by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. A criminal background check is required before students will be permitted to sit for the NCLEX exam. Individuals who are convicted felons may not take the NCLEX.

A grade of "C" is required to pass each of the practical nursing courses. A student who fails one class may not re-enroll the following semester. The student must apply for re-admission to the Practical Nursing program by the stated deadline for the next entering class before being permitted to continue in the program. A student is only allowed entry into the program two times regardless of the circumstances.

A student in the following categories will not be readmitted to the Practical Nursing Program:

1. Failing any 2 courses in the curriculum in a given semester.
2. Failing twice in the curriculum (even if different courses and/or semesters).
3. Dropping/Withdrawing from the program twice, regardless of the reason.
4. Dropping (withdrawing) once from the program and failing one course in the program regardless of the semester dropping and/or failing occurs.

(This is considered entering the program two times)

PRACTICAL NURSING APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES:

New students are admitted in August and January. Class size is limited, and all applicants are not accepted for participation. All applicants will have an equal opportunity regardless of race, age, disability, sex, creed, religion, or nationality.

Applicants with special needs due to disability must make this fact known prior to admission, so that necessary accommodations can be made. Because of the nature of the profession it may not always be possible to accommodate students with severe disabilities.

Application Deadlines: For the August (Fall) entering class: 1st Monday in March
For the January (Spring) entering class: 1st Monday in October

APPLICATION PROCEDURES, PART I

Students must submit the following information to the **Division of Student Affairs** prior to the application deadline:

1. Admission Assessment (A2) exam scores. The A2 is given on campus on Fridays, except during the summer months when it is given on Thursdays. The cost is \$35.00.
2. COMPASS placement scores, dated within the past five years. The COMPASS test is given on campus on Fridays, except during the summer months when it is given on Thursdays. A fee of \$10.00 is required to take the COMPASS.

3. OTC Application for Admission.
4. Official College Transcript(s) from each college attended and an official copy of your high school transcript or G.E.D. scores.
5. Shot records of one rubella, one mumps, and two measles immunization.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES, PART II

Students must submit the following information to the **Allied Health Division Secretary** prior to the application deadline:

1. Practical Nursing Program Application for Admission.
2. Submit a copy of A2 scores to the Nursing Division Office.

Any applicant who does not have ALL of the above information in to the correct office by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the application deadline may not be considered for admission. The admission process to this program is selective and not all students who apply will be admitted.

ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE:

Should the qualified applicants exceed the available slots in the program, admission into a particular class will be based on the submission date of the Practical Nursing Application for Admission. After acceptance into the Practical Nursing program, the student must submit evidence of the following in order to begin classes.

1. Current CPR Certification-American Heart Association Health Care Provider or American Red Cross Professional Rescuer with an expiration date following the expected date of graduation. If you are not certified, you **must** attend the mandatory CPR Certification training, held in early August for students entering in the fall and in early January for students entering in the spring. Certification must be valid for entire period of enrollment.
2. TB skin test must be submitted before beginning of 2nd semester.
3. Hepatitis B Series or signature on OTC College Vaccination Waiver Claim Form.
4. Attend the mandatory Class Orientation.

All students accepted into the Practical Nursing Program will be required to have state and national criminal background checks and will pay all associated fees. Conviction of certain crimes may make the applicant ineligible to test for licensure despite successful completion of the Practical Nursing Program. Random drug screening may be utilized at any time during the course of the program at the student's expense.

CURRICULUM - PRACTICAL NURSING

1st Semester			Credit Hours
PNUR	1111	Vocational, Legal, & Ethical Concepts	1
PNUR	1001	Medical Terminology for Practical Nursing	1
PNUR	1113	Body Structure & Function I	3
PNUR	1116	Basic Nursing Skills (*)	6
PNUR	1122	Clinical I (Basic Nursing Skills Lab)	2
PNUR	1133	Nursing of Adults I	3
PNUR	1211	Applied Math for Nurses	1
PNUR	1202	Nutrition in Health & Illness	2
AHHS	1000	1 st Year Interest Group	0
Total Semester Credit Hours			19

COMPLETION AWARD: **Certificate of Proficiency in Nursing Assistant*

2nd Semester			Credit Hours
PNUR	1112	Nursing of Mothers & Infants	2
PNUR	1203	Body Structure & Function II	3
PNUR	1213	Nursing of Adults II	3
PNUR	1222	Introduction to Pharmacology	2
PNUR	1302	Intravenous Therapy (*)	2

PNUR 1307	Clinical II	<u>7</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	19

3rd Semester		Credit Hours
PNUR 1102	Nursing of Children	2
PNUR 1201	Mental Health	1
PNUR 1313	Nursing of Adults III (Includes NCLEX Review)	3
PNUR 1333	Advanced Pharmacology	3
PNUR 1337	Clinical III	<u>7</u>
	Total Semester Credit Hours	16
Total Program Credit Hours		54

(Contact hours are set by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.)

COMPLETION AWARD: *Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing*

PROGRESSION

All courses required for the nursing program must be completed with a "C" or better. Nursing courses include a theory grade and a clinical grade. Both components of the course must be passed to progress in the program. All first semester courses must be completed with a "C" before the student may progress to second semester.

READMISSION

Students admitted and enrolled in nursing are allowed one re-admission according to space available. Students must enroll within three years of previous enrollment in a nursing accelerated option for LPN applicants.

Clinical Training: Clinical experiences are designed to allow students to transfer knowledge gained through classroom presentations into "hands-on" practical applications. Students will spend not less than 788 hours in clinical. Rules and regulations regarding clinical experiences can be found in the nursing handbook. Local long-term care facilities, acute-care facilities, and ambulatory care centers will be utilized for clinical experiences. Transportation is not provided to these areas.