

Practical Nursing DIPLOMA

Program Overview

Under the supervision of registered nurses and physicians, licensed practical nurses provide bedside care, monitor patients, gather information, evaluate patient needs and contribute to the patient's care. Licensed practical nurses administer medications and perform treatments. Licensed practical nurses utilize observation, critical thinking, decision-making and communication skills in caring for patients.

The Practical Nursing Diploma is designed to meet the requirements to become licensed as a Practical Nurse.

Career Opportunities

Employment of LPNs is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. The best opportunities will occur in nursing care facilities and home health care services. This is in response to the long-term care needs of an increasing elderly population.

Graduates may be employed in long-term care centers, clinics, home care agencies, hospice, hospitals and transitional care units. Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be prepared to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

Licensing or certification exams are independent of graduation requirements.

Program Outcomes

1. The graduate will participate in the nursing process of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation to provide basic safe and effective nursing care to patients.
2. The graduate will communicate effectively with patients, families, significant others and health care personnel.
3. The graduate will meet the student learning outcomes of the Nursing program.
4. The graduate will be prepared to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam.
5. The graduate will be prepared for job placement in nursing care.

This program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN):

3343 Peachtree Road NE
Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
Phone: 404.975.5000
Fax: 404.975.5020
website: www.acenursing.org

*Information is subject to change.
This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*

Program Faculty

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Application Process

Prior to submitting the Application to Practical Nursing Major form, an applicant must:

1. Complete the ACCUPLACER assessment and meet Minimum Program Entry Requirements (see below).
2. Complete all pre-requisites prior to PRNS courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher and a minimum "C" grade in each course. Final acceptance/enrollment in the program is conditional upon successful completion.
3. Complete all college level courses with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.
4. Submit official transcripts from ALL colleges attended outside of Saint Paul College (if applicable).
5. Complete the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS VI) with a score of 50 or higher.
6. Have obtained a Nursing Assistant certification (NAST 1111 & NAST 1112) within the last five years or have an active Minnesota Nursing Assistant Registry.
7. Submit a record of the required immunizations prior to the semester in which the student registers for clinical courses.
8. Final acceptance/enrollment in the program is conditional upon successful completion of all pre-requisites and good academic standing.
9. If accepted, attend the required Practical Nursing Seminar, which includes an overview of admissions requirements program expectations, and a schedule of classes/clinical.

The nursing admissions committee will review each application and determine admission on the basis of overall academic performance, including all previous college course work, GPA, ACCUPLACER assessment scores and Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS VI) scores. Notification of acceptance into the Practical Nursing major will be sent approximately 2-3 weeks after the admissions committee has met.

Required CPR course

Students are required to successfully complete a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course prior to registering for PRNS 1481 Clinical 1.

At Saint Paul College, HLTH 1432 Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (BLS) 1 credit fulfills this requirement.

Fall Start

Students beginning in the Fall have the option of enrolling in day or evening PRNS theory classes. Clinical experiences are subject to clinical site availability and may be scheduled for day and/or evenings.

Spring Start

Students beginning in the Spring are scheduled for day PRNS theory classes. Clinical experiences are subject to clinical site availability and may be scheduled for day and/or evenings.

See back of this guide for Program Requirements, Course Sequence & Transfer Opportunities

Minimum Program Entry Requirements

Students entering this program must meet the following minimum program entry requirements:

Reading: Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722

Writing: Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922

Arithmetic: Score of 225+ or grade of "C" or better in MATH 0745

Assessment Results and Prerequisites:

Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.

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Practical Nursing DIPLOMA *(continued)*

Program Requirements

- All classes must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or higher.

Preliminary courses and requirements:

The following must be completed prior to submitting your Application to Practical Nursing Major form.

- Check off when completed
- HLTH 1310 Communications in Healthcare 1
- HLTH 1410 Medical Terminology 1
- Health Core Credits 2**
- Goal 1: ENGL 1711 Composition 1 4
- Goal 3: BIOL 1730 Human Body Systems 3
- Goal 5: PSYC 1720 Psychology Throughout the Lifespan 3
- General Education Requirements 10**
- Nursing Assistant Certification (NAST 1111 & NAST 1112) completed within the last five years or active Minnesota Nursing Assistant Registry.
- TEAS Test: Complete Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) with a score of 50 or higher.
- Evidence of current CPR certification (HLTH 1432) must be presented prior to taking PRNS 1481 Clinical 1.

PRNS Core Courses Cr

- PRNS 1425 Essentials of Clinical Pharmacology 2
- PRNS 1436 Foundations of Nursing 4
- PRNS 1481 Clinical 1 3
- PRNS 1482 Clinical 2 3
- PRNS 1483 Clinical 3 3
- PRNS 1521 Nursing Care of Adults 1 4
- PRNS 1524 Nursing Care of Adults 2 3
- PRNS 1531 Maternal/Child Health 2
- PRNS 2411 Psycho/Social Nursing 1
- PRNS 2492 Transition to Practice 3
- PRNS Core Credits 28**
- Health Core Credits 2**
- General Education Requirements 10**

Total Program Credits 40

Program Start Dates

Fall, Spring, or Summer - Preliminary courses only

Course Sequence

The following sequence is recommended; however, this sequence is not required.

First Semester

- HLTH 1310 Communications in Healthcare 1
- HLTH 1410 Medical Terminology 1
- Goal 1: ENGL 1711 Composition 1 4
- Goal 3: BIOL 1730 Human Body Systems 3
- Goal 5: PSYC 1720 Psychology Throughout the Lifespan 3

Pre-Nursing Credits 12

- Complete the TEAS Test, Nursing Assistant Certification requirement, and apply to the program.
- Evidence of current CPR certification (HLTH 1432) must be presented prior to taking PRNS 1481 Clinical 1.

Second Semester (Fall/Spring only)

- Practical Nursing Courses
- PRNS 1425 Essentials of Clinical Pharmacology 2
- PRNS 1436 Foundations of Nursing 4
- PRNS 1481 Clinical 1 3
- PRNS 1521 Nursing Care of Adults 1 4
- PRNS 2411 Psycho/Social Nursing 1
- PRNS Core Credits 14**

Third Semester (Fall/Spring only)

- Practical Nursing Courses
- PRNS 1482 Clinical 2 3
- PRNS 1483 Clinical 3 3
- PRNS 1524 Nursing Care of Adults 2 3
- PRNS 1531 Maternal/Child Health 2
- PRNS 2492 Transition to Practice 3
- PRNS Core Credits 14**

Total Program Credits 40