

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. Licensure Examination. The program's most recent annual NCLEX licensure examination pass rate will be at least 80% for all first-time test-takers.
2. Program Completion. 60% of the students who begin the first nursing course will graduate from the nursing program within 150% of the timeframe allotted for the program.
3. Job Placement. 70% of students will be employed within one (1) year of graduation.

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 cumulative GPA of 2.5 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 minimum score of 53% or higher and a Reading minimum of 45% and English minimum of 45%.
6. Have obtained a Nursing Assistant certificate (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.

Note that most PRNS theory courses are offered on campus during the day.

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,
& End of Program Outcomes*

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 or READ 0724 or EAPP 0900

Writing: Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922 or EAPP 0900

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 Lifespan Development 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 minimum score of 53% or higher and a Reading minimum of 45% and English minimum of 45%.

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 1484 Clinical 2 2
 PRNS 1483 Clinical 3 3
 PRNS 1521 Medical Surgical Nursing 1 4
 PRNS 1524 Medical Surgical Nursing 2 3
 PRNS 1531 Maternal/Child Health 2
 PRNS 2410 Psycho/Social Nursing 2
 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 Lifespan Development 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 Medical Surgical Nursing 1 4
 PRNS 2410 Psycho/Social Nursing 2
PRNS Core Credits 15

Third Semester (Fall/Spring only)

Practical Nursing Courses
 PRNS 1484 Clinical 2 2
 PRNS 1483 Clinical 3 3
 PRNS 1524 Medical Surgical Nursing 2 3
 PRNS 1531 Maternal/Child Health 2
 PRNS 2492 Transition to Practice 3
PRNS Core Credits 13

Total Program Credits 40

End of Program Outcomes

1. Provide safe, quality care that promotes the health of individual patients across the lifespan.
2. Recognize the patient or designee as the source of control and full partner in providing compassionate and coordinated care based on respect for patient's preferences, values, and needs.
3. Demonstrate competency within Practical Nurse scope of practice to provide, safe, quality care for diverse patients in a caring environment.
4. Function effectively within nursing and inter-professional teams, fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care.
5. Demonstrate responsibility for own personal and professional growth as a self-motivated, self-directed person who utilizes self-reflection and feedback from team members.
6. Utilize critical thinking and nursing judgment when prioritizing care, implementing evidence based interventions, and promoting the health of individual patients across the lifespan.