

Practical Nursing

Certificate

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Length: Three semesters

Purpose: The 12 month certificate curriculum in practical nursing is designed to prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the health team providing safe and competent nursing care under the direction of registered nurses and doctors. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination PN leading to licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Occupational Objective: Employment opportunities for the LPN include, but are not limited to, staff positions in hospitals, long-term care facilities, physician's offices, clinics, home health agencies, public schools, day care centers, and other health related agencies under the direction of registered nurses and doctors.

Admission Requirements: Admission to the VHCC Practical Nursing Program is a selective process. The program is open to applicants who are free of any physical or mental condition which might adversely affect performance as a member of the healthcare team. In addition to the requirements for admission to the college, the applicant must meet the following requirements by the application deadline:

7. Graduation from high school or satisfactory completion of the GED.
8. Good standing with the most recently attended institution with a minimum GPA of 2.0.
9. Demonstrated competency in mathematics as evidenced by:

Proficiency in MTE 1-4 demonstrated by Virginia Placement Test (within the last 5 years),

OR completion of a college level math course (MTH 146 or higher) with grade of C or better,

OR SAT Score of 510-520/ACT Score 19-21 (within the last 5 years),

OR GED- Math score of 165 or above (within the last 5 years),

OR has successfully completed developmental courses (within the last 5 years),

OR High School GPA (HSGPA) & Algebra II, 3.0 or higher (within the last 5 years).

10. Demonstrated competency in English as evidenced by: Virginia Placement Test with placement in ENG 111 (within the last 5 years),

OR Informed Self-Placement,

OR completion of an associate degree or higher,

OR completion of a college level English course with grade of C or better,

OR ACT Reading and Writing Score 18 or above (ENG 111), 15-17 (ENF 3/ENG 111), (within the last 5 years),

OR SAT Reading/Writing 480 or above (ENG 111), 460-470 (ENF3/ENG 111), (within the last 5 years),

OR GED- English score of 165 or above (within the last 5 years),

OR has successfully completed developmental courses (within the last 5 years)

OR High School GPA (HSGPA) 3.0 or higher (ENG 111), HSGPA 2.7-2.9 (ENF3/ENG 111), (within the last 5 years)

11. Demonstrated competency in Biology as evidenced by completion of one unit of High School Biology or the college equivalent with a grade of "C" or better,

OR completion of BIO 145 with a grade of "C" or better,

OR completion of BIO 141 and BIO 142 with no grade below a "C".

6. Completion of the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) with a National Percentile Rank score of 40 or above.

7. A 2.0 grade point average (GPA) for high school courses** or a 2.0 curricular GPA for college coursework.

8. College students must be in good standing with the most recently attended institution with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

9. Completion of Practical Nursing Application for each academic year interested in being considered.

Application: Practical nursing program application packets will be accepted in the Admissions Office through the posted deadline each year. Packets must include official high school transcripts, all college transcripts; GED test scores (if applicable), and TEAS test results.

Once a packet is submitted, additional documentation will not be accepted. If not all transcripts are included, the Admissions Office will suspend processing an application.

Transcripts from other Virginia Community Colleges are not required; however, any Virginia Community Colleges attended must be listed on both the Admissions Application and the Practical Nursing Application.

All prerequisites (general biology, English and math proficiency) must be met and all documents submitted by the application deadline.

Further details of the application process can be found at www.vhcc.edu/medapp (click Future Students > Admissions > Applications & Forms > Medical Program Applications).

Out-of-region applicants will only be considered for openings in the practical nursing program after all qualified in-region applicants are considered (see VHCC Student Handbook, Admission Priorities). To be considered in-region, an applicant must be domiciled within the service region for 12 months prior to the program application deadline.

Program Requirements: Prior to enrollment in any PNE course, the student must provide the following documentation:

1. Required Student Forms.
2. Annual Student Statement of Health Form
3. Student Information, Physical, Immunization Forms.
 - a. A physical examination from must be completed by a medical practitioner, MD, PA, or CNP.
 - b. Immunizations including tetanus, Mumps-Measles-Rubella (MMR), Varicella, and Hepatitis B.
 - c. Current testing for tuberculosis, either Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test (TB Tine Test is not accepted) or chest X-ray.
 - d. Documentation of ability to perform physical demands required in direct patient care activities.
4. Purchase a background check, drug screen, and medical document package.
5. Clearance of criminal background check and drug testing.
6. Proof of CPR certification, American Heart Association, Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers completed during the summer (May 15 - August 1) prior to admission to PNE courses and maintained throughout the program.
7. Additional annual immunization requirements: Flu immunizations are required by most healthcare agencies and are usually available in fall semester.

The cost of these requirements is the responsibility of the student.

Special Note: The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny license to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia. Most healthcare organizations are prohibited from hiring persons who have been convicted of certain criminal acts (For a list of crimes under this category refer to the Virginia Board of Nursing webpage under the heading, Licensure/Applicants: Article 90-55, click on the link, [Joint statement of the Department of Health and The Department of Health Professions on Impact of Criminal Convictions on Nursing Licensure or Certification and Employment in Virginia, Revised November 2015](#)). Students with convictions or positive drug tests may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not be able to complete the program requirements.

Physical Demands: Program activities include duties that frequently require squatting, bending, kneeling, reaching, and 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 acute sense of sight, hearing, touch, and speech. Environmental conditions include procedures that involve handling blood and body fluids using universal precautions.

Course Requirements: The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college and selected community agencies such as hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, physicians' offices and comparable facilities. The practical nursing faculty will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for nursing and direct patient care.

Students must complete all courses sequentially as listed in the curriculum. A student must have a "C" or above in theory plus "satisfactory" in clinical performance in all nursing courses to remain in the program. A grade of "C" or above in any related requirements is a prerequisite for continuing in the nursing program.

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

Program Progression: Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" in all required courses and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to remain eligible for continued enrollment in the nursing program. Any student who earns a final grade lower than a "C" in a required course (either general education or nursing courses) must repeat the course and earn a final grade of "C" or better before taking the next course in the sequence.

A student must obtain permission from the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health to continue in the Practical Nursing Program under the following conditions:

1. Repeating a course with a grade below "C"
2. Withdrawal from a nursing course
3. Cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Reapplication/Readmission Requirements: Students who are not successful in the first practical nursing course, PNE 161, must reapply to the program. A new practical nursing program application packet must be submitted by the application deadline.

A student who wishes to reenter the practical nursing curriculum at any other level must write a letter to the program coordinator and the dean of nursing and allied health requesting readmission in the semester prior to the semester of enrollment. Re-enrollment must occur no later than three years from successful completion of PNE 161 or the student will have to repeat all practical nursing courses.

The student may be required to enroll in and satisfactorily complete specific courses before readmission. Additional data may be required including a new criminal background check and medical records.

The decision to readmit will be based on additional data, prior performance in the practical nursing program, and space availability.

Based on the course(s) that must be repeated, the student who is readmitted may be required to complete a skills competency course or demonstrate competency in critical nursing skills before progressing to the next level.

A student who has two academic failures or withdrawals in separate semesters will be ineligible for reenrollment in the program. Such a student may not be readmitted if the cumulative grade point average is less than 2.0, including all courses attempted other than practical nursing courses.

According to the VCCS Policy 5.6.3 and VHCC Policy 5.7.4 "A student will normally be limited to two enrollments in the same credit course." Any exception to this policy must be approved by the program dean and the vice president of instruction and student services.

Financial Requirements: In addition to the usual college tuition and fees, the practical nursing program requires uniforms with accessories, textbooks, progressive testing and remediation program, physical exam, immunizations, Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test or chest x-ray, a background check, drug screen, and medical document package, CPR Certification, and HIPAA Certification.

Students are also responsible for transportation to and from the College and health agencies used for clinical experiences.

Clinical Contracts: Virginia Highlands Community College has contracts with clinical agencies for both student and patient safety. If students cannot comply with these contractual requirements, they will not be able to participate in clinical activities and will be asked to withdraw from the program. General guidelines follow:

1. Clinical agencies reserve the right to dismiss a student from their agency at any time with due cause. This will be done with advance notice except in an emergency.
2. Published policies of the clinical agency must be followed. Each student must successfully complete an orientation program prior to participating in activities at any clinical facility.
3. Clinical facilities require that all students have documentation of ability to perform the physical demands required in direct patient care activities.
4. Immunizations must be current.
5. Student releases any clinical agency, its agents and employees from any liability for any injury or death to himself or damage to his property arising out of agreement or use of the clinical agencies.
6. Proof of HIPAA and CPR Certification must be provided.

Curriculum: The practical nursing certificate program offers an opportunity for recent high school graduates and other eligible adults to complete the program requirements after 12 months of full time attendance (1 summer session and 2 semesters).

Students have the option to complete all general education courses required by the practical nursing certificate curriculum before beginning nursing classes.

| Course Number | Course Title | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Credits |
|---|--|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| First Semester (Summer) | | | | |
| BIO 145 | Human Anatomy & Physiology for Health Sciences | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| PSY 230 | Developmental Psychology | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| ITE 119 | Information Literacy | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| ENG 111 | College Composition I | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| SDV 101 | Orientation to College Success | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | | 13 | 3 | 14 |
| Second Semester (Fall) | | | | |
| PNE 161 | Nursing in Health Changes I | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| PNE 162 | Nursing in Health Changes II | 6 | 12 | 10 |
| Total | | 10 | 18 | 16 |
| Third Semester (Spring) | | | | |
| PNE 163 | Nursing in Health Changes III | 4 | 15 | 9 |
| PNE 145 | Trends in Practical Nursing | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| PNE 173 | Pharmacology for Practical Nurses | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | | 7 | 15 | 12 |
| Total Minimum Credits for PN Program | | | | 42 |

Footnote:

1. BIO 141 and 142 are acceptable substitutes recommended for progression to the LPN to RN Program