

Practical Nursing

Certificate

Purpose: The Practical Nursing Certificate program is designed to prepare a nurse who participates as an integral member of the nursing or health care team involved in health promotion and maintenance activities for the client. The practical nurse provides direct care for individual clients experiencing common, well-defined health problems with predictable outcomes, in structured health care settings with supervision. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, the student will be eligible to take the national examination for licensure as a Practical Nurse (LPN).

Occupational Objectives: LPN positions in long-term care, hospitals, physicians' offices and other comparable structured health care facilities and agencies

Admission Requirements: General college curricular admission

Program Notes: Students must have a high school diploma, GED, or certificate of completion of home schooling to be admitted to the Practical Nursing Certificate program. There are two stages of acceptance into the program. First, all applicants to the program must declare their curriculum plan as the Pre-Practical Nursing and Dental Assisting Career Studies Certificate. (Please see http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/curriculum/plan_info.htm for information on this career studies certificate.) The following steps must be completed as part of the first stage of the acceptance process:

1. Submit official high school transcript, GED, or certificate of completion of home schooling to Central Admissions and Records.
2. Submit official college transcripts, if applicable, to Central Admissions and Records. Courses taken at other colleges that contain equivalent content and credits may transfer to satisfy a program requirement.
3. Complete JSRCC's placement tests in reading, writing, and mathematics and all developmental coursework prescribed as a result of the placement tests.

The second stage of the acceptance process requires that all individuals interested in entering the Practical Nursing Certificate program submit an application to the Practical Nursing program head and meet the following requirements:

1. The application can be submitted after completion of all required developmental courses. Students may apply for the Practical Nursing Certificate program while enrolled in the Pre-Practical Nursing and Dental Assisting Career Studies Certificate. While it is advisable that students complete all courses in the Pre-Practical Nursing and Dental Assisting Career Studies Certificate prior to acceptance into the Practical Nursing program, this is not required. There are two courses that must be completed prior to beginning the Practical Nursing Certificate program: ENG 111 and NAS 150 (or NAS 161 and 162 in lieu of NAS 150).
2. All applicants must also successfully complete the NET Pre-Admission Exam.

(Four-year college graduates are exempt from this requirement.) Students must have a minimum score of 45 in reading and math to be eligible for admission to the program. Students who do not score at that level on the NET exam will be required to complete specific remedial courses with a grade of "C" or better. Upon completion of the prescribed remedial courses, students must retake the NET Exam to achieve an acceptable score on the second attempt to qualify for the program.

3. Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in all courses completed in the Pre-Practical Nursing and Dental Assisting Career Studies Certificate program and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to be accepted into the Practical Nursing Certificate program.

4. All applicants must obtain CPR certification by the America Heart Association at the BLS level prior to beginning the first course in the Practical Nursing program.

Legal Requirements. The Virginia Board of Nursing has the authority to deny licensure to an applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54-367.32 of the code of Virginia. Any student entering the program who has committed illegal offenses other than minor traffic violations should discuss these matters with the program head prior to admission for clarification. Criminal background checks are required of all applicants to the Practical Nursing program.

Clinical facilities used by the program have additional requirements for students that include updated immunizations, dress codes, and conformance with professional standards.

Pre-Entrance Health Requirement. Upon granting approval for entry into PNE 141, the program head will give students forms for physical and dental examinations, including required immunizations. Students must be free of any physical or mental condition that might adversely affect their performance in clinical courses or as nurses. Medical/dental forms must be submitted in complete form at the beginning of PNE 141. Validation of freedom from tuberculosis is required annually of all practical nursing students through skin testing or chest x-ray.

Functional Skills Requirement. Students entering the Practical Nursing program must possess the physical ability to 1) aid in the lifting and moving of patients; 2) hear audible alarms and sounds; 3) auscultate certain physical parameters, such as blood pressure, heart and lung sounds; and 4) interact effectively with patients, families, and health care team members. This includes the following:

- a) Sufficient eyesight to observe patients, read records, manipulate equipment, and visually monitor patients in dim light.
- b) Sufficient hearing to communicate with patients and members of a health care delivery team, monitor patients using electronic equipment, and hear necessary sounds during operation of equipment.
- c) Satisfactory speaking, reading, and writing skills to effectively communicate in English in a timely manner.
- d) Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to manipulate equipment, lift, stoop, or

bend in the delivery of safe nursing care.

e) Satisfactory physical strength and endurance to be on one's feet for extended periods and to move immobile patients.

f) Satisfactory intellectual and emotional function to ensure patient safety and to exercise independent judgment and discretion in performing assigned tasks.

Academic Performance Policy. A minimum grade of "C" is required for all courses in the Practical Nursing curriculum. Students must obtain permission from the program head to continue in the program under the following conditions: 1) repeating a nursing course with a grade below "C" or 2) withdrawal from a nursing course. In accordance with VCCS policy, a student may not normally enroll in the same course more than twice. Further policies for the program are listed in the *Practical Nursing Student Handbook*, which is given to students upon acceptance to the Practical Nursing Certificate program.

Progression through the Program. The college offers this program in affiliation with the healthcare agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves. The college relies on its community affiliates to provide clinical education opportunities for its students, expert clinical preceptors, and course instructors for many courses. The often rapid changes in healthcare law, standards of practice, technology, and content of credentialing examinations increasingly necessitate sudden changes in the program's course content, policies, procedures and course scheduling. As a result, the college cannot guarantee every student continuous and uninterrupted clinical and course instruction as outlined in the printed catalog curriculum for this program. Circumstances beyond the control of the college may necessitate the postponement of course offerings or changes in the sequencing and/or location of scheduled courses or clinical assignments. Additionally, the college may have to change the instructor for courses after instruction has started.

Computer Competency Requirement: All applicants to the Practical Nursing program must either pass the computer competency exam, administered in the testing centers at each campus, or successfully complete ITE 115 or CSC 155 prior to entering PNE 141. Students not passing the computer competency exam may retake the exam only once. Students who do not pass the exam after retaking it once must then complete ITE 115 or CSC 155.

CURRICULUM				
COURSE	TITLE	LEC. HRS.	LAB. HRS.	CRS. CRE.
*ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
*SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
*NAS 150 ¹	Human Biology	3	0	3
*PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3	0	3
TOTAL		10	0	10

PNE 141 ²	Nursing Skills I	2	3	3
PNE 142³	Nursing Skills II	1	6	3
PNE 173⁴	Pharmacology for Practical Nurses	2	0	2
PNE 116	Normal Nutrition	1	0	1
TOTAL		6	9	9
PNE 162	Nursing in Health Changes II	5	15	10
TOTAL		5	15	10
PNE 163	Nursing in Health Change III	4	12	8
PNE 145	Trends in Practical Nursing	1	0	1
TOTAL		5	12	9
Total Minimum Credits for Certificate in Practical Nursing				38

*This course is included in the Pre-Practical Nursing and Dental Assisting Career Studies Certificate.

¹Students planning to continue to the Nursing AAS Degree program are strongly encouraged to take NAS 161-162 instead of NAS 150. NAS 161 has prerequisites of high school biology and chemistry.

²Students must pass the computer competency exam or complete ITE 115 or CSC 155 and must be CPR certified in Basic Life Support for Health Care Provider through in the American Heart Association prior to taking PNE 141.

³PNE 141 is an eight-week course that is taken in the first session of the semester, and must be passed before taking PNE 142 and 173 offered in the second eight-week session.

⁴Students satisfactorily completing PNE 141 and enrolled in PNE 142 and PNE 173 will be eligible to take the CNA Exam.