

## Certificate: Practical Nursing

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**AREA:** Practical Nursing Certificate

**LENGTH:** Three semesters (one-year) program.

**PURPOSE:**

The Practical Nursing curriculum is designed to prepare beginning practitioners with the knowledge and skill to care for patients of all age groups and to qualify as contributing members of the health care team. Students who successfully complete the curriculum are awarded a certification in practical nursing and are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) leading to a license as a practical nurse.

Practical Nursing is an academically rigorous program. The Practical Nursing Program is open to men and women who provide evidence of interest, motivation, and aptitude in the area of health care. Students shall be selected on the basis of established criteria and without regard to age, race, creed, sex, or national origin. Students with disabilities who meet the admission requirements, including a medical history and physical examination signed by a physician stating that the student is able to perform as a student nurse in a clinical setting are eligible for admission.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Requirements for admission into the PN Program are specific and admission is selective and competitive.

1. Application to Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) and nursing program
2. LFCC placement tests (if required) and completion of any developmental work that may be identified by the placement tests. Applicant must show competency in MTE 1-5 and readiness for ENG 111 to satisfy requirements without taking remediation.
3. Graduation from high school or satisfactory completion of the certificate of general education development (GED or equivalent); official copy required.
4. One (1) unit of high school biology or college equivalent (BIO 101).
5. Meet certain computer competencies prior to entering the nursing program. Applicants are required to review and sign the, "Essential Computer Competency Checklist." Students without the required skill set are encouraged to enroll in ITE 115
6. A GPA of 2.5 or higher based on the twelve (12) most recent college credits completed by the end of fall semester prior to submitting a nursing application.
7. Completion of the required HESI admission assessment exam components scoring at or above the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile in each required component which includes reading

comprehension, anatomy and physiology, math and the composite score.

- HESI critical thinking exam learning style and personality profile are also included in the required HESI admission exam..
  - Two attempts on the HESI admission exam are permitted per application cycle.
  - **Nursing entrance exams are good for 2 application cycles only. NOTE: Needed entrance exam scores (at or above the 45%) change on a yearly basis.**
8. If current CNA – evidence of a current restricted CNA license.
  9. Submit official transcripts from other institutions to LFCC Admissions and Records for evaluation for transfer credit. Another official transcript from the other institutions must be submitted with the Nursing Application.
  10. Admission requirements that must be completed by spring application include: remedial work for Math or English, high school biology or the college equivalent.

Pre-Nursing students are strongly encouraged to attend a nursing information session. Dates are posted on the website located at <https://lfcc.edu/nursing/>

**Upon acceptance to the PN program the student must:**

- Submit a completed physical history and examination, including immunizations.
- Provide proof of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by the American Heart Association/Healthcare Provider Course.
- Complete a criminal background check and drug screening conducted by the college-designated contractor. The costs of the background check and drug screen are the responsibility of the student. Failure to pass either will prevent student from clinical requirements, which will prevent student from being accepted into PNE course.
- Comply with all rules and guidelines of the LFCC Nursing Student Handbook and the LFCC Student Handbook.
- Sign an agreement which releases all clinical agencies and their employees, Lord Fairfax Community College, The Virginia Community College System and the Commonwealth of Virginia from any liability for any injury or death to the student or damage to his/her property arising out of agreement of use of facilities associated with the nursing program.
- Nursing students enrolled in nursing courses are required to purchase malpractice insurance. Students may purchase malpractice insurance from independent providers.

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- Students must comply with all clinical agreement protocols including immunization requirements, drug screening, background checks, and personal health insurance.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a minimum of 49 credits with a C average or better in all general education and nursing courses, to include the Preceptorship clinical experience in PNE 164.
- Demonstrate satisfactory attendance and performance in the nursing clinical areas. Virginia Board of Nursing requires at least 400 hours of clinical experience for licensure with a satisfactory grade C or better.
- Transportation to and from classes and to agencies used for clinical experiences
- Student is responsible for all fees charged in purchasing required testing, liability insurance, uniforms, books, criminal background search and drug screen.
- Strict adherence to attendance and performance policies for classroom and clinical courses as outlined in the Nursing Student Handbook and College Catalog.

### Program of Study

The Practical Nursing program is approved by the VCCS and the Virginia Board of Nursing.

### Second Semester (spring)

HLT	130	Nutrition and Diet Therapy	2
PNE	136	Care of Maternal Newborn and Pediatric Patients	4
PNE	162	Nursing in Health Changes II***	11
<b>Total</b>			<b>17</b>

\*\*\*PNE 162 is a Prerequisite for PNE 158, 164, & 175

### Third Semester (summer)

PNE	158	Mental Health/Psychiatric Nursing	2
PNE	164	Nursing in Health Changes IV	10
PNE	175	Introduction to Supervision & Management for Practical Nurses	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>13</b>

**Program Total** **49**

The following courses may be completed prior to acceptance in to the Practical Nursing Program: SDV 101/100, ENG 111, BIO 145 or BIO 141 & BIO 142 (BIO 141 & BIO 142 are strongly encouraged for nursing students and are required for continuing nursing education), PSY 230, HLT 130. All Science courses must be completed within the last 8 years of applying to the program.

Course#	Title	Credits
<b>First Semester (fall)</b>		
BIO	145 Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Sciences <sup>2</sup>	4
ENG	111 College Composition I <sup>2</sup>	3
PNE	161 Nursing in Health Changes I <sup>1</sup>	6
PNE	174 Applied Pharmacology for Nurses <sup>1</sup>	2
PSY	230 Developmental Psychology <sup>2</sup>	3
SDV	101/100 Orientation to Health Professions	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>

<sup>1</sup> Formal Acceptance into the Practical Nursing Program is required before registering for PNE classes

<sup>2</sup>ENG 111, BIO 145 or BIO 141 & BIO 142 (BIO 141 & BIO 142 are strongly encouraged for nursing students and are required for continuing nursing education) and PSY 230 must be completed with a "C" or better before enrolling in the Spring Semester PNE Courses