

Practical Nursing Certificate

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The Practical Nursing Program, coordinated by the Health Sciences Department, offers a certificate in Practical Nursing. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the National Council of State Boards Licensure Examination for Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN).

This certificate program is approved by the NYS Education Department (www.op.nyed.gov) and divided into two phases, pre-clinical and clinical. The Program is a 48-credit, certificate-bearing program organized to be rigorous, but supportive of adult learners from diverse cultural and literacy experiences. It provides students with the opportunity to complete the course of study in 12 months after completion of the pre-clinical phase. The program prepares men and women to function as practical nurses, performing tasks and responsibilities within the framework of case finding, health teaching, health counseling, and the provision of supportive and restorative care in health care facilities that offer chronic and acute care services within the scope of the Nursing Practice Act. The classroom instruction for each nursing course is complemented by campus laboratory experience and clinical practice in area health care facilities. A variety of teaching-learning strategies are employed to help insure students' learning including the use of E-portfolio, collaborative group activities, and writing intensive assignments. The curriculum is designed for students with a high school diploma or GED. Students must move through a prescribed curriculum and may not take courses out of sequence.

Students admitted into this program are considered to be in the "pre-clinical" phase of the major. To progress to the "clinical" phase, students must meet specific criteria. Admission to the clinical phase of the program is competitive due to the program's limited capacity; therefore students should strive for a high GPA in all required courses. Achievement of the progression standards does not guarantee advancement to the clinical phase.

Beginning the fall 2009 semester all students applying for candidacy in the Nursing Program must provide documentation to show proof of residency in New York State. For full details on this requirement, see page 247.

Students in the clinical phase may be required to undergo a Criminal Background Check as part of placement at hospitals or other off-campus clinical training sites. In addition, the Office of the Professions of the New York State Education Department requires that a criminal background check be conducted prior to granting a license to practice nursing. For additional information on this requirement, see page 247.

Completion of the recommended general education and clinical courses during the clinical phase of the Practical Nursing Certificate Program is comprised of two 12-week and two 6-week semesters. The clinical experiences in area institutions which supplement classroom theory are provided in a variety of practice settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, and community health care facilities.

Students who need additional skill development in reading, writing, mathematics, and communication will be required to take basic skills and/or ESL courses. The particular courses that students must successfully complete are determined by their scores on the college placement test (see Notes).

Practical Nursing Certificate Curriculum

Counseling	
New Student Seminar	0
English: 3 credits	
Composition I ENC/G101*	3
Natural Sciences: 8 credits	
Fundamentals of Human Biology I SCB203*	4
Fundamentals of Human Biology II SCB204	4
Social Science: 6 credits	
General Psychology SSY101*	3
Developmental Psychology I SSY240	3
Math, Engineering & Computer Science: 2 credits	
Mathematics of Medical Dosages MAT106*	2
Nursing: 29 credits	
Fundamental Nursing Concepts and Skills SCL101	5
The Science and Art of Nursing: Introduction to Practical Nursing SCL102	2
Pharmacology and Nutrition Across the Health Continuum SCL103	2
Medical-Surgical Nursing SCL104	4
Mental Health Nursing SCL105	3
Maternal-Child Health Nursing SCL115	3
Pediatric Nursing SCL116	3
Medical-Surgical Nursing II SCL117	5
The Science and Art of Nursing: Transition from Student to Graduate Practical Nurse SCL118	2

TOTAL CREDITS: 48

* Pre-clinical Key Courses



Notes:

- > No grade lower than “C-” will be accepted for any required Math and Science course. Science courses in which students earn a “C-,” “D+,” “D,” or “D-” may be repeated with permission of the Chairperson of the NAS Department. When Key Courses with grades of “C-,” “D+,” “D,” “D-,” or “F” are repeated, both course grades will be calculated in the Key Course average.
- > All students must file for Candidacy in order to progress to the clinical phase. To be considered, students must register for Candidacy (4199) in either the Fall I or Spring I session immediately preceding the semester they plan to begin clinical courses.
- > Students will be dropped from the program for grades less than “C”. In addition, a requirement for completion is satisfactory evaluation in each clinical area. Students must earn a passing grade on a comprehensive Nursing Exam and a grade of 100 on a final dosage calculation examination.

PN to Nursing Pathway: Licensed practical nurses may be eligible for an advanced standing pathway, which may exempt them from the first year of required designated nursing courses. The Pathway requires PN licensure and successfully passing the NYS Coalition for Educational Mobility’s Transition Course before applying for the 3-credit Bridge Course which begins the Pathway track into the final year of the Nursing Program leading to the AAS degree. Further information on Pathway articulation and admission is available in the Registered Nursing Student Handbook.