



# Practical Nursing (NUR)

## Program Information

The Practical Nursing program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and proficiencies to provide safe and effective bedside nursing care within the scope of practice of licensed practical nurses. Students are instructed in the provision of nursing care for clients through the lifespan. Clinical experiences are provided at area hospitals and health care agencies in adult health, maternal health, child health, orthopedics, geriatrics, psychiatric and other areas of nursing practice.

Practical Nursing is open to men and women; few careers match the versatility, satisfaction and longevity afforded by a nursing career. Students who have satisfactorily completed the program may apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN). The Practical Nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing. The program has a competitive admissions process.

## Occupational Choices

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses held about 719,000 jobs in 2014. About 17 percent of LPNs worked in hospitals, 38 percent in nursing and residential care facilities, 13 percent worked in offices of physicians, 11 percent worked for home healthcare services, and 7 percent in Federal, State, and local government agencies. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S.

Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-2017 Edition

## Average Full-Time Wage

Median annual wages of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses were \$43,170 in May 2015. Salary ranged from the lowest 10 percent earned less than \$32,040, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$59,510 annually.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-2017 Edition.

## Admission Criteria

Applicants should complete and submit a Practical Nursing Program Application and request for copies of college and high school transcripts sent directly to the College's Admission Office.

Minimum admission standards include:

1. Unconditional admission to the college. (Must complete college application)
2. Receipt of completed application for the nursing program by deadline March 1 for Summer admissions, June 1 for Fall admissions, October 1 for Spring admissions.
3. Minimum of 2.50 cumulative GPA for nursing required academic core courses and minimum 2.0 GPA at current, native institution.
4. Minimum of 2.50 high school GPA for students without prior college work (GED acceptable in lieu of high school transcript).
5. Eligibility for ENG-101 and MTH-100 as determined by college policy (minimum ACCUPLACER scores of 5 or above in writing and a score of 40-59 in elementary algebra or 70-120 in math, and a reading score of 70 or above). ACCUPLACER scores must be at or above minimum.
6. Good standing with college.
7. Meeting the essential functions or technical standards required for nursing (see below), and
8. Completion of the ACT (score of 18 or higher) must have been taken.
9. Transfer students must be in good standing from transferring institution with letter from Program Director and a minimum of 2.0 Cumulative GPA with Nursing Courses no more than one year from date of application.

## Estimated Program Length & Cost \*

| Award       | Length  | Credit Hours | Tuition Fees | Books   | Tools | Supplies |
|-------------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------|-------|----------|
| Certificate | 3 Terms | 46           | \$6,670      | \$1,200 | \$745 | \$600    |

\* Tax not included. Prices are subject to change without prior notice; cost of books may vary considerably among suppliers. Cost of general education books is in addition to the total listed above. The length of the program is based on full-time status of 12-15 credit hours per term. Enrollment in transitional level general education courses will alter the length of the program.

Students in the Practical Nursing Program must meet the following requirements which will be completed at the student's expense prior to and throughout enrollment in the program:

1. Meet the Essential functions of the program,
2. Provide verification that the student possesses the physical and mental capabilities to function as a nurse in diverse settings with or without reasonable accommodations,
3. Verify absence of use of drugs and alcohol by participation in random and scheduled drug/alcohol testing at the student's expense,
4. Adhere to policies of affiliated clinical agencies by submitting criminal background check and CPR certification prior to enrollment.

Admission to the Practical Nursing Program is competitive, and the number of students is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available. Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance. If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the space available to new enrollees, applicants are rank-ordered using a point system based on:

1. ACT score of 18 or higher
2. Points for selected college courses (i.e., ENG-101, MTH-100, BIO-201 & 202, PSY-210, SPH-106 or 107).
3. Students may be awarded up to 10 additional points as determined by college policy and procedures.

The applicant's actual score on ACT test will be the points awarded. Applicants must go online to schedule ACT testing and pay appropriate fee.

The Practical Nursing Admissions/Selection Committee will review and calculate points for students meeting minimum admissions standards after receiving GPA calculations from the Director of Admissions and Records.

This process may take 4-6 weeks after each deadline before applicants receive notification of acceptance. Calls to the department will slow the process.

### **Transfer Policy**

The transfer policy applies only to students desiring to transfer between Alabama Community College System institutions. It does not apply to students wishing to transfer from other institutions. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the nursing program director.

### **Awards Available**

Certificate  
Practical Nursing

### **Program Contact**

Dr. Marilyn Whiting  
Director of Nursing/Instructor  
334-420-4497  
Location: Trenholm Campus - Bldg. B

As part of ongoing planning and evaluation, the College regularly evaluates student learning outcomes for each program.

## Certificate Practical Nursing

### Required Technical Courses (25 credit hours)

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Title</u>                      | <u>Hrs</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| NUR-112       | Fundamental Concepts of Nursing   | 7          |
| NUR-113       | Nursing Concepts I                | 8          |
| NUR-114       | Nursing Concepts II               | 8          |
| NUR-115       | Evidence Based Clinical Reasoning | 2          |

### Required General Education \* (21 credit hours)

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Title</u>                    | <u>Hrs</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| BIO-201       | Human Anatomy & Physiology I    | 4          |
| BIO-202       | Human Anatomy and Physiology II | 4          |
| ENG-101       | English Composition I           | 3          |
| MTH-100       | Intermediate Algebra            | 3          |
| ORI-101       | College Orientation             | 1          |
| PSY-210       | Human Growth & Development      | 3          |
| SPH-106/107   | Speech                          | 3          |

\* Students without prior college credit who enter the program may opt to take a reduced load; however, Pell Grant will be affected. Please speak to a Financial Aid Counselor. Students may choose to take ENG-101, MTH-100, PSY-210, SPH-106 or 107 and ORI-101. (as applicable).

**Total Hours: 46 Credit Hours; 1,120 Contact Hours  
(based on 16 weeks)**

## Course Descriptions for Practical Nursing (NUR)

| Course #   | Course Title                             | Theory<br>Contact<br>Hours/Wk | Lab<br>Contact<br>Hours/Wk | Clinical<br>Contact<br>Hours/Wk | Credit<br>Hours | Contact<br>Hours |
|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>NUR-112</b>   | <b>FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF NURSING</b>   | <b>4</b>                      | <b>2(3)</b>                | <b>1(3)</b>                     | <b>7</b>        | <b>13</b>        |
| COREQUISITE: MTH-100, BIO-201, ORI-101   |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| PREREQUISITE: ADMISSION TO NURSING PROGRAM   |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| This course teaches foundational knowledge of nursing concepts and clinical decision making to provide evidence-based nursing care. Content includes but is not limited to: healthcare delivery systems, professionalism, health promotion, psychosocial well-being, functional ability, gas exchange, safety, pharmacology, and coordinator/manager of care.  |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| <b>NUR-113</b>   | <b>NURSING CONCEPTS I</b>                | <b>4</b>                      | <b>1(3)</b>                | <b>3(9)</b>                     | <b>8</b>        | <b>16</b>        |
| COREQUISITES: ENG-101, BIO-202, PSY-210  |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| PREREQUISITES: NUR-112, MTH-100, BIO-201, ORI-101  |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| This course teaches foundational knowledge of nursing concepts and clinical decision making to provide evidence-based nursing care. Content includes but not limited to: coordinator/manager of care, perfusion, oxygenation, infection, inflammation, tissue, nutrition, elimination, mobility/immobility, cellular regulation, acid/base balance, and fluid/electrolyte balance                                    |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| <b>NUR-114</b>   | <b>NURSING CONCEPTS II</b>               | <b>5</b>                      | <b>0</b>                   | <b>3(9)</b>                     | <b>8</b>        | <b>14</b>        |
| COREQUISITES: NUR-115, SPH-106 or 107  |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| PREREQUISITES: NUR-112, NUR-113, ENG-101, BIO-201, BIO-202, PSY-210, ORI-101   |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| This course teaches foundational knowledge of nursing concepts and clinical decision making to provide evidence-based nursing care. Content includes but is not limited to: coordinator/manager of care, sexuality, reproduction and childbearing, infection, inflammation, sensory perception, perfusion, cellular regulation, mood disorders and affect, renal fluid/electrolyte balance, and medical emergencies. |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| <b>NUR-115</b>   | <b>EVIDENCE BASED CLINICAL REASONING</b> | <b>1</b>                      | <b>0</b>                   | <b>1(3)</b>                     | <b>2</b>        | <b>4</b>         |
| COREQUISITES: NUR-114, SPH-106 or 107  |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| PREREQUISITES: NUR-112, NUR-113, ENG-101, BIO-201, BIO-202, PSY-210, ORI-101   |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |
| This course provides students with opportunities to collaborate with various members of the health care team in a family and community context. Students utilize clinical reasoning to assimilate concepts within the individual, health, and nursing domains.   |  |                               |                            |                                 |                 |                  |