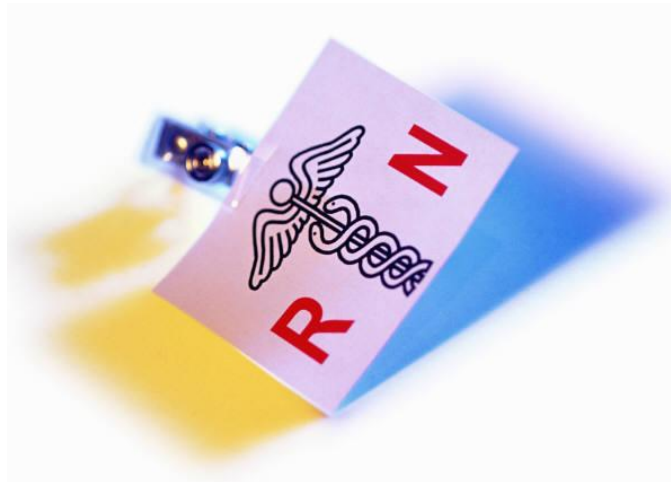


LPN TRANSITION REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM JANUARY 2010



INFORMATION PACKET

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Accredited by:

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
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Introduction

The PVCC nursing program leads to an Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing. Associate degree nursing programs, such as the one at PVCC, prepare graduates to perform bedside nursing care primarily in an acute care (hospital) or long-term care (nursing home) setting.

There are 2 other types of basic nursing programs that prepare students for licensure as a registered nurse. A diploma nursing program is offered by a hospital school of nursing. The graduate of a diploma program is eligible to take the State Board of Nursing licensing exam, but is not awarded an academic degree. Like associate degree nurse graduates, the diploma nurse performs bedside nursing care in an acute or long term care setting. A baccalaureate nursing program consists of 4 years of study at a college or university. Graduates are prepared not only to do basic nursing care, but also to function in leadership roles within an acute care setting and as caregivers in community settings (for example, as a home health care nurse). Baccalaureate graduates are awarded a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) upon completion of their course of study and are eligible to study for an advanced degree in nursing.

If you are interested primarily in taking care of patients at the bedside or if you wish to obtain an associate degree in nursing as a first step to pursuing a bachelors or higher degree, then the PVCC nursing program is an excellent choice.

STUDY OPTIONS

LPN Transition applicants may select consideration for admission to either the day or evening/weekend study option (check: “day”, “evening/weekend” or “either” on the application). Students may be limited by the availability of second year student slots in their desired option. Once a student has been admitted into either the day or evening/weekend program of study, he/she is expected to remain in that program of study. For example, a student admitted to the day program may not register for evening/weekend nursing courses and vice versa.

NOTE FOR EVENING/WEEKEND STUDY OPTION: for courses that require 2 clinical days per week, you may be assigned to clinicals that occur over one evening from 3pm-11pm and Saturdays 7am-2:30pm OR on Saturdays and Sundays 7am- 2:30pm or 3pm – 11pm. Please plan and make your decision accordingly.

Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student to the nursing program must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions of a registered nurse.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the health care team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone and hear faint body sounds.
3. **Vision:** Visual acuity sufficient to identify and distinguish colors, read handwritten orders and any other handwritten or printed data such as medication records or scales, chart data, and provide for the safety of clients' condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment in order to correctly interpret data.
4. **Mobility:** Stand and/or walk eight hours daily in the clinical setting. Bend, squat, or kneel. Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (move around client to manually compress chest and ventilate). Work with arms fully extended overhead.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment (syringes, infusion pumps, life support systems)
6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation. Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.
7. **Mentation:** Ability to remain focused on multiple details and tasks for at least an eight-hour period of time. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired through lectures, discussions, and readings.
8. **Smell:** Olfactory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
9. **Writing:** Ability to organize thoughts and present them clearly and logically in writing.
10. **Reading:** Ability to read and understand written directions, instructions and comments in both classroom and clinical settings.

APPLYING TO THE NURSING PROGRAM

Nursing Transition Program Prerequisites

Only applicants who have completed all program prerequisites prior to November 15, 2009 will be considered for admission to the LPN Transition Program starting January 2010.

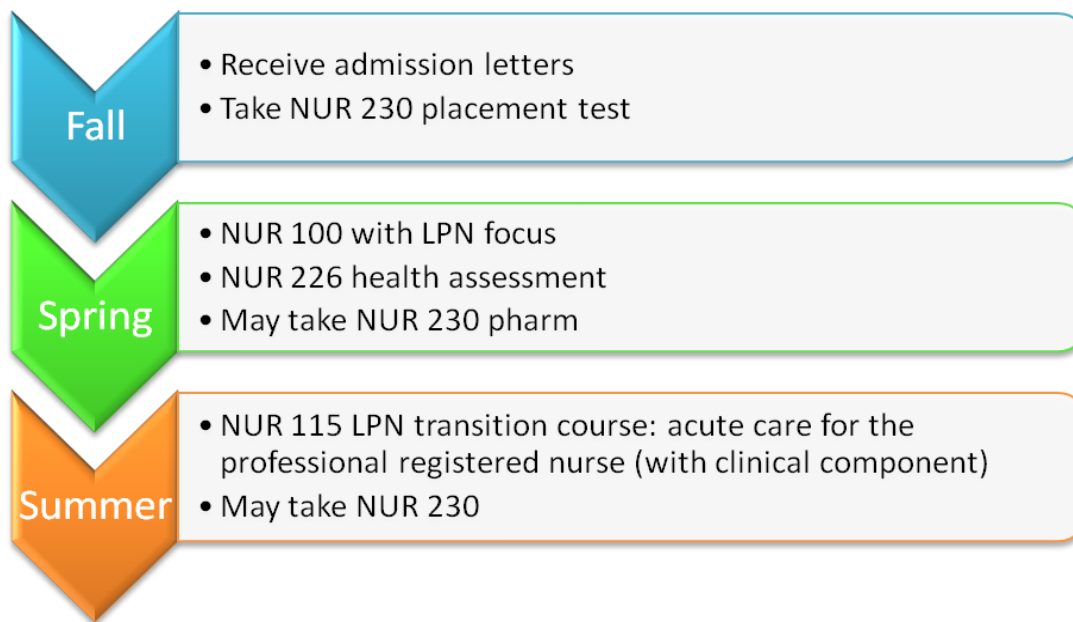
The following courses must be satisfactorily completed in order to be considered for admission to the PVCC nursing program. Please remember that the admissions process in the nursing program is competitive: only applicants meeting the criteria listed below at the highest level are admitted. Courses must be verified by an official transcript. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum **does not** guarantee admission.

1. Current Licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in Virginia
2. At least 2 years of work experience as an LPN
3. English 1-5 (Developmental English courses) or COMPASS placement demonstrating competency in this content.
 - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level composition course with a grade of "C" or better
 - b. SAT verbal and writing score of 520 or an ACT score of 21
4. BSK 8 & 9 (Developmental Math courses) or COMPASS placement testing **within the past 8 years** demonstrating competency in this content.
 - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level math course **within the past 8 years**. Technical math and certain liberal arts math courses will not satisfy this prerequisite.
 - b. SAT quantitative score of 480 or ACT score of 20
5. Biology and Chemistry (High School level)
 - a. Completion of high school biology and chemistry courses with a "C" or better.
 - b. Completion of acceptable college-level biology and chemistry courses. Courses such as "consumer chemistry" do not satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.
 - c. Completion of NAS 2 – Foundations of Life Science
 - d. Satisfactory completion of NAS 2 Placement Test
6. Anatomy and Physiology (College Level)
 - a. Completion of BIO 141 and BIO 142 with a "C" or better **within the past 8 years**. The Anatomy and Physiology courses must be completed by the end of Spring semester 2010.

LPN Transition Program Curriculum Plan

1. LPNs interested in entering the RN program will complete the NUR 230 (Pharmacology) placement test by the end of Fall semester prior to entering the program
2. Spring Semester: Take NUR 100 (Intro to Professional Nursing) and NUR 226 (Health Assessment). May Take NUR 230 (Pharmacology) (if needed)
3. Summer Semester: Take NUR 115 (LPN Transition/ Med-Surg) and NUR 230 (Pharmacology) (if needed)
4. Must pass all courses as well as complete Bio 141 and 142 to continue to second year nursing courses
5. If not successful in NUR 115, may apply for admission into NUR 112 (Medical Surgical Nursing) for Spring semester.
6. LPN Transition students must complete all science general education requirements and the nursing courses with a "C" or better in order to earn an AAS in Nursing.

LPN Transition Schedule



CHANGING STUDY OPTIONS AFTER ADMISSION

Nursing students are admitted to either the day or evening/weekend study options. It is expected that students will remain in this study option throughout their course of study. However, there are times when circumstances in a student's life change and a need to change study options occurs. When space is available, such requests will be honored up to the last day to add a class in each semester.



QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED ABOUT THE PVCC NURSING PROGRAM

1. **AM I A REGISTERED NURSE WHEN I COMPLETE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM?**

NO. Once you have earned the Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing, you are eligible to take the State Board Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN). Upon passing this examination, you become a registered nurse license (R.N.).

2. **ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN THE NURSING PROGRAM?**

Yes. In addition to tuition and the cost of transportation to clinical sites and parking, students are responsible for the following items (estimated):

Criminal Background Search/ Drug Screen	\$90 – First Year
Uniforms/Supplies	\$300.00 - (total for 2 yrs)
Books	\$ 250.00 per year
Learning System	\$125.00 per semester (This fee includes NCLEX review session at the end of the last semester.)

3. **WHERE ARE THE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS IN THE PROGRAM?**

Martha Jefferson Hospital, University of Virginia Health System, Western State Hospital, Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center, Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, The Colonnades, The Cedars, The Laurels, Our Lady of Peace, Health South and Augusta Medical Center are settings where students do clinical rotations. Other facilities may also be used.

4. **IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?**

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in the Office of Admissions and Records, the Coordinator of Enrollment Services and Records will complete a transcript evaluation and send you written confirmation of courses accepted for transfer to PVCC.

5. **IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO NURSING STUDENTS?**

Yes. There are a number of financial aid opportunities. For further information, please contact the FINANCIAL AID OFFICE (434-961-6545) at your earliest convenience.



Recommendations From First Year Nursing Students For Prospective Nursing Students

The Piedmont Virginia Community College Nursing Program requirements are rigorous, stressful and time consuming. In order to make your program more satisfying, we, who have learned through experience, urge you to consider the following recommendations submitted by members of our class.

- Be sure you are competent in basic math skills before entering the program. These skills are very important when giving medications.
- Complete the BIO 141-142 series and NAS 185, if possible, before beginning the nursing program. Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, and Nursing all have a heavy workload.
- Complete all your general education requirements if possible before beginning the nursing program. Nursing clinical days begin at 7:00 a.m. and require much preparation before each clinical day. Nursing theory has much reading required.
- Meet with your assigned nursing advisor to plan your curriculum in advance. The nursing faculty are willing to help you plan a schedule that will work for you.
- Try not to work more than a maximum of 16 hours/week at an outside job. Students who work more than this are often unable to pass the nursing courses.
- Be sure to keep the evening before clinical days open for clinical preparation. These will not be evenings when you should schedule yourself to work!



Nursing Program Admission Checklist

**Use this as a tool for yourself to assure completion of the
LPN Transition Program Requirements
by November 15, 2009**

Application Requirement	How Met?	Date Completed
Complete PVCC Application	On-line Application	
Complete Nursing LPN Transition Program Application	On-line Application	
Verification of LPN Licensure	Submit copy of License to Nursing Office	
Submit College Transcripts to Registrar's Office	Have colleges send official transcripts to PVCC Office of Admissions and Records	
Submit High School Transcript or GED to Nursing Office – Division of Math, Science, and Human Services	Have High School send transcript to Nursing Office	
Completion of Biology and Chemistry requirement	HS transcript, college transcript, completion of NAS 2, or test-out of NAS 2	
Completion of English prerequisite requirement	COMPASS test, college transcript	
Completion of Math prerequisite requirement	COMPASS test, college transcript	
Completion of BIO 141 and BIO 142	College Transcript	