

Spring 2023

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 24, 2022

Practical Nursing

ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE

Admission Requirements and Program Information



**Health and Life Sciences Division
Keats Science Building
434.961.5445**

Accredited by:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges | 1866 Southern Lane | Decatur, GA 30033-4097 | 404.679.4500

Conditional Approval by:

Virginia State Board of Nursing | Perimeter Center | 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300 | Richmond, VA 23233-1463 | 804.367.4515

www.pvcc.edu/lpn

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Disclaimer

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PVCC reserves the right to make changes to any provision or requirement within these sources, as well as changes to any curriculum or program, whether during a student's enrollment or otherwise.

Hard copies of the Admission Information Book may be obtained in the Admissions and Advising Center and in the lower-level of the Keats Science Building.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Piedmont Virginia Community College is an equal opportunity institution providing educational and employment opportunities, programs, services, and activities. PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family medical history or genetic information, military service, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, or any other non-merit base factor. The college also prohibits sexual harassment including sexual violence or misconduct. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding any of these policies: Human Resources Manager, 501 College Dr., Main Building, Room M810, Charlottesville, VA 22902; 434.961.6567.

G3 Program

This is a G3 program. Students may qualify for free tuition, fees, and books. Visit pvcc.edu/financialaid/G3 for more information.

Personnel and Contacts

Head of Program

Linda Peffley-Firer, MSN, RN, COHN-S

Associate Dean of Nursing Programs

Lpeffley-firer@pvcc.edu

434-961-5239

Faculty

Brittany Pokrifka, MSN, RN, CPN, CNE

Practical Nursing Program Lead

Instructor of Practical Nursing

bpokrifka@pvcc.edu

434-961-5216

Administrative Staff

Shannon Copeland

Clinical Compliance Coordinator

scopeland@pvcc.edu

434-961-5431

Zoë Willow, BS, TESOL

Administrative Staff Assistant

zwillow@pvcc.edu

434-961-5242

Application Dates

The application for this program and all other PVCC Health and Life Sciences Program can be found on the HLS Application Portal (pvcc.edu/hlsapplication). All applicants must register before beginning an application.

Application Open Date

The application portal for this cohort will open on **August 29, 2022, at 9:00 AM**.

Application Due Date

All applications for this cohort must be completed by **October 24, 2022, at 5:00 PM**. Applications which are incomplete at this time will not be considered.

Decision Date

Admissions decisions for all applicants will be made by **December 2, 2022, at 5:00 PM**. All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application within 7 business days of this date at the latest.

Introduction

The PVCC Practical Nursing (PN) Program prepares graduates to successfully function in the role of an entry-level licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician in structured settings, providing direct care to clients with common health problems that have predictable outcomes.

The purpose of the Practical Nursing Program is to educate individuals who are concerned with basic therapeutic, rehabilitative, and preventative care for people of all ages and diverse cultures in various stages of dependency. The graduate of PVCC's PN program will be eligible to apply for licensure after successful completion of the NCLEX-PN examination.

The problem-solving process is used as a framework for critical thinking and practice. Concepts that provide further structure for the development of practical nursing competency are assessment of patients with emergent needs, communication skills, and development of professional attitudes and characteristics.

Philosophy

The nursing program is organized around the concept of nursing as defined by the International Council of Nurses (2010):

“Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well, and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles.”

The conceptual framework guiding the nursing program philosophy and curriculum is based on the National League for Nursing Education Competencies Model. This model integrates several components which are essential in a comprehensive, successful nursing program. At the foundation are the Core Values:

- Caring
- Diversity
- Ethics
- Excellence
- Holism
- Integrity
- Patient-centeredness (National League for Nursing, 2010).

Keeping the core values in mind, the foundational core values inform the integrating concepts within the NLN model that provide further structure for the development of nursing knowledge and competencies are:

1. Context and environment
2. Knowledge and science
3. Personal/professional development

4. Quality and safety
5. Relationship-centered care
6. Teamwork (National League for Nursing, 2010).

The nursing process is also used as a basis for introducing critical thinking and nursing practice. Additional concepts have been derived from the Quality and Safety Competencies (2007) from the *Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN)* and have been incorporated into the curriculum.

Goals and Learning Outcomes

The PVCC Practical Nursing Program prepares graduates to successfully function in the role of an entry-level licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician in structured settings, providing direct care to clients with common health problems that have predictable outcomes. The graduate is expected to function in the following ways.

1. Promoting optimal health for clients at various points on the wellness-illness continuum by applying principles from the physical, biological and social sciences when delivering nursing care; conceptualizing illness as an opportunity for client growth; facilitating the client's assumption of primary responsibility for wellness recognizing that one or more of an individual's basic needs are not being met.
2. Using the nursing process as a guide to maintain individual nursing care plans.
3. Effectively communicating with clients, colleagues, and others.
4. Participating in teaching clients who need information or support to maintain health.
5. Managing, with supervision in structured settings, the nursing care for clients who have common, well-defined health problems.
6. Functioning as a member within the profession of nursing.

Mission

The mission of Piedmont Virginia Community College is to offer accessible, affordable, high-quality educational programs that promote student success and community vitality.

In support of the college mission, the mission of the PVCC nursing program is to provide high-quality nursing education to a diverse student population in preparation for entry-level, professional nursing practice in a variety of settings. This mission is accomplished through innovative programs that reflect the current needs and trends of healthcare and our community. Our programs are developed and implemented by faculty who are committed to education of the highest standards and who promote clinical practice, scholarly activity, and life-long learning to advance the profession of nursing.

Licensure/Certification

After completion of the Practical Nursing program, students are eligible to take the State Board Licensing Examination (NCLEX-PN). Upon passing this examination, the student is eligible to apply to the Virginia Board of Nursing for licensure.

Curriculum

Successful completion of the program is dependent on satisfactory performance in all courses indicated in the table below. Students may be required or complete certain courses prior to admission.

A minimum final grade of "C" is required in all listed courses unless otherwise indicated.

SEMESTER	COURSE	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	NOTES
PREREQUISITES	ENG 111	College Composition I	3.0	Must complete prior to admission
	BIO 145	Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Sciences	4.0	
	SDV 100	College Success Skills	1.0	
	PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3.0	
	HLT 141	Medical Terminology	2.0	
SEMESTER 1 (SPRING)	PNE 186	Nursing Concepts I	6.0	Prerequisites: Admission to the Practical Nursing Program
	PNE 173	Pharmacology for Practical Nurses	2.0	Prerequisites: Admission to the Practical Nursing Program
SEMESTER 2 (SUMMER)	PNE 187	Nursing Concepts II	9.0	Prerequisites: Successful completion of 1 st Semester Practical Nursing Courses
	PNE 116	Nutrition and Diet Therapy	1.0	Prerequisites: Successful Completion of 1 st Semester Practical Nursing Courses
SEMESTER 3 (FALL)	PNE 188	Nursing Concepts III	6.0	Prerequisites: Successful Completion of 2 nd Semester Practical Nursing Courses

Transfer Credit

Only the PVCC Registrar's Office is authorized to accept transfer credits and apply such credits toward progress in the program of study. Students should consult the "Transfer Credit to PVCC" webpage (pvcc.edu/transfer-credit-pvcc) for instructions on how and when a transfer credit evaluation can be completed.

Credits which are accepted to meet admission requirements **are not** automatically eligible for transfer credit and must still be evaluated by the Registrar's Office after admission.

Essential Functions and Standards of Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all the following essential standards and functions. Students who are unable to meet these standards are not eligible for admission to the program and may be dismissed from the program if found to be deficient in one or more essential functions at any time after admission.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the healthcare team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing and Comprehension:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, understand and respond appropriately to verbal directions, 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 client's condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment 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. Lift 50 pounds independently and 125 pounds with assistance.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment (e.g., syringes, infusion pumps, life support systems).
6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation. Have tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and manipulation of equipment.
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.

Program Behavior Expectations

The PVCC Health and Life Sciences Division reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is considered to be in the best interest of the program. The program will not accept any student who has been dismissed from another college or program due to misconduct or threatening behavior or who has been determined to be a potential threat. Students may be denied admission to the program if

there is sufficient reason to believe that they present a danger to themselves, other members of the college community, or clients in the clinical setting.

Clinical Compliance Requirements

All students admitted to the program are required to provide documentation that they have met the program's clinical compliance requirements by the given deadline(s). These requirements may include – but are not limited to – a complete health assessment by a licensed healthcare provider, specific immunizations, and completed tests. A current list of clinical compliance requirements can be obtained by contacting the Clinical Compliance Coordinator (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)). Students who fail to meet deadlines for providing documentation of clinical compliance may be barred from attending clinical sites and may be dismissed from the program. This includes any failure to follow instructions for properly submitting documentation.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

All students admitted to the program must complete a background check and drug screening through the service and vendor designated by the Clinical Compliance Coordinator (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)). No other processes may be substituted for this requirement and no other service or vendor may be used. Forms and information will be made available to students after acceptance into the program. This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees will be paid directly to this vendor. Students are responsible for payment of this service and must complete the background check and drug screening by the deadline provided in the admissions packet. Students who have not completed the background check and drug screen within the required timeframe will be dismissed from the program.

No PVCC employee is authorized to predetermine the outcome of a background check or drug screening. Any information provided by a PVCC employee regarding a specific background check or drug screening should be considered as advisory only.

Background Check

The background check will search for misdemeanors and felonies of any type. However, only “barrier” crimes will result in failure of the background check. “Barrier” crimes are those crimes which would bar a student from attending one or more of PVCC's clinical sites for this program or which would prevent the student from obtaining a relevant certification or licensure.

Students who are found, at any time after admission, to be convicted of a “barrier” crime may be dismissed from the program.

Students who have criminal convictions, but who passed the background check for barriers to employment, should be aware that (1) any felony conviction, or (2) any misdemeanor conviction that involves moral turpitude (lying, cheating, stealing), may result in the applicant not being allowed to sit for licensing exam. However, each applicant is considered on an individual basis by the VBON. There are NO criminal convictions that are an absolute bar to nursing licensure. Questions regarding eligibility for licensure should be addressed with the Virginia Board of Nursing directly.

Barrier Crimes for This Program

Barrier crimes are those that would prevent a student from obtaining employment in a hospital, nursing home, home care organization, or hospice. Generally, criminal convictions for offenses involving abuse or neglect disqualify an applicant from employment. For a more complete list of barrier crimes, please check the Virginia Department of Nursing website:

http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/nursing/guidance/90_55.pdf

Drug Screening

The drug screen tests for amphetamine (methamphetamine), barbiturates, benzodiazepine, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates (codeine, morphine), phencyclidine and propoxyphene.

Any of these drugs found in the student's drug screen will result in the student failing the drug screen. In cases of failure, the vendor of the screen will contact the student and, if the student failed due to a valid prescription, the student can send prescription documentation directly to the vendor, which may result in the student passing the drug screen. If no valid prescription covers a drug screen failure, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Minimum Program Eligibility Requirements

Only applicants who have completed all of the following requirements will be considered for admission. Applicants who meet all minimum program eligibility requirements are **not** guaranteed admission into the program. Applicants who fail to meet any of the minimum program eligibility requirements will not be admitted into the program.

All requirements **must** be met by the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)). If a requirement is met by completing coursework, an eligible final grade must be received by the application due date and be visible on the documentation provided in the application. Coursework which is still in progress or which has otherwise not resulted in an eligible final grade cannot be used to meet minimum program eligibility requirements.

Nonstandard Grades

A final grade of "P+" will be treated as a final grade of "C+" with a corresponding GPA of 2.5 for the purposes of GPA calculation.

All other final grades which are outside of the standard A-F grading scale will be evaluated and assigned value at the discretion of the head of the program (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)) or designee.

All final letter grades which are modified by a + or - (e.g. B+ or C-) will be treated as the unmodified version of that letter grade for the purposes of any GPA calculation, with the exception of "P+" final grades.

Disclaimer for Admission Requirements and Transfer Credit

The head of the program (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)) or designee determines whether a given non-PVCC course can meet an eligibility requirement. This determination applies **only** to minimum program eligibility requirements and does not guarantee that the course is eligible for transfer credit nor that it is applicable toward program completion requirements.

Only the PVCC Registrar's Office is authorized to accept transfer credits and apply such credits toward progress in the program of study. Students should consult the "Transfer Credit to PVCC" webpage (pvcc.edu/transfer-credit-pvcc) for instructions on how and when a transfer credit evaluation can be completed.

List of Requirements

By the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)), all applicants must have completed all of the following requirements.

1. Achieved a Minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.0

Cumulative GPA is calculated among all college coursework completed including all VCCS and non-VCCS courses. Calculations are based on VCCS and PVCC policy, even for coursework completed outside of VCCS.

2. Be in good standing with the college.

3. Demonstrated competency in Algebra

- Completion of an acceptable high school-level Algebra course (within the last five (5) years) with a grade of "C" or better **OR** evidence of a college algebra course if it has been more than five (5) years since high school graduation. Technical math or statistics courses will not satisfy this requirement. Official transcript required.
- SAT quantitative score of 520 or PSAT of 52 **OR** ACT score of 22 (test scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test).
- TEAS math score of at least 50% or higher to be eligible for admission.

4. Demonstrated competency in reading and writing

- Earned a "C" or better in ENG 111 College Composition I or equivalent

5. Demonstrated competency in Biology (High school level).

- Completion of high school general biology course with a "C" or better
OR
- Completion of acceptable college-level general biology course with a "C" or better
OR
- Completion of NAS 2 – Foundations of Life Science with a grade of "P" **OR** successful completion of NAS 2 challenge exam with a 70% or better
OR
- TEAS Science score of at least 50% or higher to be eligible for admission
- BIO 145 will not meet this prerequisite

6. Earned a "C" or better AND has a GPA of 2.5 or better in all PN Prerequisite courses

7. Earned a 50.0% or better on the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) composite score and all subcategory scores

This score must have been achieved no earlier than two (2) years prior to the application due date. Subscores from multiple different attempts may not be applied to meet requirements; all eligible scores must be achieved in the same attempt. No other examination is accepted for this requirement (e.g., Kaplan tests and HESI tests are not accepted).

8. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)

- Completion of the TOEFL iBT with a standard score of 84 or above and a minimum speaking score of 26 is required for ALL nonnative English speakers. Completion of ENG 111 does not meet this requirement.
- These scores are based on recommendations from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for the level of English proficiency required to perform entry-level nursing safely and effectively.
- Any nonnative English speakers who do not take the TOEFL iBT and are determined to be unable to understand and speak English at the required proficiency will be dismissed from the practical nursing program.
- TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two (2) years and must be valid at the time of application.

9. Preference given to those with CNA experience.

A copy of your current CNA license must be uploaded to the application portal for preference to be applied.

10. Applications must be completed and documentation received as described below no later than the application deadline of 5 P.M. October 14, 2022.

Late documentation will not be considered.

PVCC Testing Centers

Students who seek to complete placement tests, entrance exams, and accreditation/licensure assessments may be able to do so through PVCC's testing centers. Visit pvcc.edu/testing-centers for more information.

Any required exams can be scheduled through any authorized testing center; applicants are not restricted to the PVCC Testing Centers for meeting admission requirements.

Documentation Required

Applicants must upload documentation to show evidence that each requirement has been met as part of their application.

Documentation which does not include the applicant's full name will not be reviewed.

Unofficial transcripts are acceptable documentation for all application requirements being met by specific coursework. In addition to the applicant's full name, valid transcripts must show **all** of the following information in order to be reviewed:

- Name of the school, college, or university as applicable
- Course subject and number (e.g., "BIO 141")
- Full name of course (e.g., "Human Anatomy & Physiology I")
- Semester and year of course completion (e.g., "Fall 2021")
- Number of credits awarded for course completion
- Final grade

DO NOT request official transcripts or test scores to be sent to PVCC for this application. Official transcripts and test scores that are sent to PVCC will not be received by the Health and Life Sciences Division and will not be reviewed with your application. Only documentation which is uploaded in the application portal will be reviewed.

Ranking Criteria

If more applicants meet the minimum program eligibility requirements than there are available seats in this year's cohort, all eligible applicants will be ranked according to the following criteria in order.

- 1. Greatest number of curricular courses already completed with a "C" or better.**
These are courses which are required for completion of the program, according to the [Curriculum](#) section.
- 2. Highest combined GPA of BIO 145 and HLT 141.**
If the student has taken BIO 141 and BIO 142 instead of BIO 145, then those two grades will be averaged for a combined BIO grade.
- 3. Highest TEAS composite score**
- 4. Residence in the PVCC Service Region**
The PVCC Service Region is defined as the Virginia localities of Albemarle, Buckingham, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

Ties that occur during ranking are broken at the discretion of the head of the program (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)) or designee as necessary, based on past and potential future academic performance and professional success of the tied applicants.

Application Process

1. Apply to PVCC. Only current PVCC students may apply to a health sciences program. Visit the PVCC Website (pvcc.edu) to apply.
2. Register for an account in the HLS Application Portal. All applicants must have an account in the portal. Your SIS student ID and VCCS Email Address are required to register. If you already have an account, skip this step, and use that account to apply.
3. Once the application open date (see [Application Dates](#)) has passed, start an application for the program.
4. Complete all questions in the application checklist and upload all relevant documents by the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)).
5. Once the application due date has passed, your application will close and be transmitted to the Health and Life Sciences Division. Your application will be screened for eligibility according to the minimum program eligibility requirements and, if necessary, ranked according to the ranking criteria.
6. Within seven (7) business days of the decision date (see [Application Dates](#)) you will be contacted with the outcome of your application. Your application will be placed in one of the following statuses:
 - a. **Admitted.** Your application met minimum eligibility requirements and was ranked highly enough to merit a seat in this year's cohort. To accept your admission, you must

submit the “Intent to Enroll” form that is provided to you by the given deadline. If you do not complete the form by the deadline or if you decline admission, your offer of admission will be rescinded and your application will be moved to “denied” status (see part c of this step). Your offer of admission may be conditional; additional steps may be required of you to retain your seat in the cohort. If your offer of admission is conditional, this will be communicated to you along with the specific conditions.

- b. **Deferred.** Your application met minimum eligibility requirements but was not ranked highly enough to merit a seat in this year’s cohort at this time. If an offer of admission is rescinded from a formerly admitted student (see part a of this step), the highest ranked deferred applicant will be moved to “admitted” status and contacted accordingly.
- c. **Denied.** Your application did not meet minimum eligibility requirements or a previous offer of admission was rescinded (see part a of this step). You are not eligible to join the program for this cohort year. You will be provided with information regarding inquiries and formal appeals.

Applications do not carry over into future application cycles. If you are not admitted in this application cycle, you will need to submit a new application during the new cycle to be considered. If you were not admitted in a previous cycle, your application has not been saved for this cycle and a new application is necessary.

Readmission

Students seeking readmission into the program or advanced placement transfers will be considered on a clinical space-available basis. Applicants for readmission must submit a letter detailing how the student intends to improve performance to the Associate Dean of Nursing. Students seeking readmission for the summer semester must submit their readmission letter by **April 15, 2022**. Students seeking readmission for the fall semester must submit their readmission letter by **July 15, 2022**. Students desiring readmission to PNE 173 or PNE 186 must apply as new applicants.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long will it take to complete the Practical Nursing Program?

Once the prerequisite courses are completed, the Practical Nursing Program curriculum can be completed within one (1) year.

2. Am I an LPN when I complete the Practical Nursing Program?

No! Once you have earned the Certificate in Practical Nursing, you are eligible to take the State Board Licensing Examination (NCLEX-PN). Upon passing this examination, you are eligible to apply to the Virginia Board of Nursing for licensure.

3. Are there any costs involved in the Practical Nursing Program?

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

Item	Estimated Cost
TEAS Entrance Exam	\$120
Books (includes ATI Online Learning System)	\$2000
Supplies (uniforms, Nurse Pak kit, etc.)	\$570
Health Screening Exam	\$100 - \$500 (depending on healthcare provider and immunizations or tests required)
Background Check/Drug Screen	\$132
NCLEX-PN EXAM (through Pearson Vue)	\$200
Trajecsys Time System	\$150
Acemapp Scheduling System	\$50
Virginia Licensing Application Fee	\$170
Fingerprinting for VBON	\$35.95

4. Where are the clinical assignments in the Program?

Clinical sites include, but are not limited to, Albemarle Health and Rehabilitation, Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail, Augusta Health, Charlottesville Family Medicine, Madison Family Physicians, Pediatric Associates, The Laurels, UVA Medical Center, Western State Hospital, Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, and local school systems. Please note that while we will make every effort to consider driving distances in all clinical assignments, we cannot

guarantee to accommodate any individual schedule or site request. Carpooling with fellow students is highly encouraged.

Students will be expected to attend clinical sites that may be outside of the Charlottesville/Albemarle area and can be up to 50 miles from PVCC.

5. If I am transferring from another college, can I get credit for some of the general education classes?

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in PVCC's Office of Admissions and Records, you may request that the registrar complete a transcript evaluation and send you written confirmation of courses accepted for transfer to PVCC. The Transcript Evaluation Request form can be found online at [Transcript Evaluation Request Form](#)

6. Can I use BIO 141 and BIO 142 in place of BIO 145?

Yes. Students may take BIO 141 and BIO 142 in place of BIO 145 for the Practical Nursing Program. Please note that **both** BIO 141 and BIO 142 must both be completed by the end of Summer 2022 to satisfy the curricular requirement before application.

7. Is there financial aid available to Practical Nursing students?

Yes. There are a number of financial aid opportunities. For further information, please contact the Financial Aid Office (434-961-6545). It is best to complete the financial aid application as soon as possible.