Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC)
Practical Nursing (PN) Program Admission Standards
Effective November 7, 2016

The Practical Nursing program is designed to prepare students to meet the licensure requirements for Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), as established by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSBPNE). The program progresses from simple to complex and consists of classroom instruction, lab practicum and supervised clinical activities in accredited hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care agencies.

Students should note that some courses have prerequisites, which must be completed before enrolling into upper level courses and continuing in the program. Students must demonstrate basic computer skills prior to advancement into the acute care clinical component of the program. The PN Program Lead Instructor (i.e., the program coordinator) at each campus, or their designee, may assess a student’s basic computer skills by administering a competency exam or having the student successfully complete CPTR 1000, or a comparable computer course.

Articulated courses are determined at the discretion of the PN Program Lead Instructor and based upon individual evaluation as described in the Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model (2014). Each course in the PN program must be completed with a minimum score of 80%. Upon graduation, the student is awarded a diploma and is eligible to apply for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

This is a limited enrollment program. Students must be admitted to the program to enroll in any of the PN courses.

**Direct Admission Requirements:** For direct admission, students must meet or exceed entrance test scores as indicated in table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of test</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT (sub score)</td>
<td>18+</td>
<td>20+</td>
<td>18+</td>
<td>20+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUPLACER</td>
<td>48+ (Elementary Algebra)</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>74+ (sentence Skills)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPASS</td>
<td>55+ pre-algebra</td>
<td>85+</td>
<td>70+</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39+ algebra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSET</td>
<td>42+</td>
<td>44+</td>
<td>44+</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Students with lower scores MUST enroll in the appropriate preparation course(s).

1. The ACCUPLACER test will be the initial assessment tool used to place the student in the appropriate preparation course. A campus/regional level test administrator will administer the ACCUPLACER/Placement test.
2. PN students may retake the ACCUPLACER with a minimum 1 week waiting period between each retest
   a. Can retest two times only (total of 3 attempts to meet scores)
   b. After 3rd attempt, must enroll in preparation course(s) as applicable
   c. ACCUPLACER test scores are valid for (3) three years.
3. Students whose scores meet or exceed the ranges listed above are exempted from preparation course(s).
4. Students who have not taken the ACT, or who have an ACT Science Score below 20, are required to complete a science preparation course, AHSC 1000, prior to enrolling in the PN program. Students may also be exempted from the science preparation course if they present official college transcripts indicating successful completion of a comparable college level science course. Comparable courses include but are not limited to: Biology; Physical Science; Anatomy
& Physiology; Chemistry; Microbiology; Physics, etc. Courses should have been completed within the last 4 years and a minimum grade of C received.

5. **A placement exam for the science preparation course (AHSC 1000) is available.** Students are only eligible for the placement exam PRIOR to the start of the semester. Students must score 70% or higher on the AHSC Placement exam. Students may take the placement exam **one time only** and must pay applicable fees ($15) for the exam. The score is valid for three years. Students should be given the **course syllabus for AHSC 1000 as a reference/study guide.**

6. **PN students must meet the test scores outlined above regardless of the completion of previous coursework.** These scores meet the minimum requirements of the LSBPNE for admission into a Louisiana PN program and **cannot** be bypassed.

**Additional Admission Requirements/Standards:** Students must apply to the campus/program of their choice and meet the minimum admission requirements/standards, including:

- Ability to obtain CPR for Healthcare Providers certification prior to first clinical course – or as directed by PN Program Lead Instructor
- Official birth certificate
- Official HS or GED transcript
- Proof of current immunizations
- History and Physical exam
- TB skin test or Chest x-ray
- Two sets of fingerprints and a $38.00 money order payable to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety or Louisiana State Police
- $50.00 money order payable to the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
- Additional criminal background check required for clinical courses – check with the campus for specific information
- Drug screening – check with the campus for specific information
- Applicants must NOT be currently serving under any court-imposed order of supervised probation, work release, school release or parole in conjunction with any felony conviction(s) or plea agreement.
- As documented by a physician on the history & physical exam form, students must demonstrate ability to meet following technical/performance standards (related to ADA compliance) while receiving the instruction as outlined in each course syllabus:
  a) Read and communicate orally and in writing using the English language.
  b) Hear with or without auditory aids to understand normal speaking voice without viewing the speakers face.
  c) Visually, with or without corrective lenses, observe changes in client’s condition and actively participate in learning process.
  d) Utilize stamina, strength and psychomotor coordination necessary to perform routine practical nursing procedures at floor or bed level.
  e) Demonstrate use of gross and fine motor skills necessary to provide independent, safe and effective practical nursing care.
  f) Solve problems and apply critical thinking skills while providing safe and efficient client care.
  g) Interact with individuals/families/groups from various socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.
  h) Adapt and function in a multi stressor environment while adhering to legal/ethical guidelines of the school, Louisiana Practical Nurse Practice Act and clinical agencies.