Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC)
Practical Nursing (PN) Program Admission Standards / Criteria

REVISED - Effective Spring Semester 2024 (next Freshmen class to be Admitted)

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.

In the Practical Nursing program, the courses are sequenced and co-linked. Some courses are also linked to co-requisite course and both must be taken at the same time, regardless of whether one is passed and one is failed, they must always be taken together, so the passed course must be repeated if it is a co-requisite or linked to another course. The Practical Nursing program requires a lot of basic computer knowledge. If a student feels they are not competent in working with computer systems or programs it is recommended they take Intro to Computers- CPTR 1000.

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. In addition to minimum Accuplacer scores as indicated below, and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0, acceptance into the program is based on a ***ranking system*** that includes multiple weighted indicators such as: whether the candidate has a certification and prior work experience as a Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Tech, or Medical Assistant, or EMT; if the candidate has a previous degree or has successfully taken full time college courses in the past; if the candidate has taken PNUR 1001 and passed with an 80% in each component of the course (math, medical terminology, intro to basics in nursing, and study/test-taking skills), and/or the actual scores received on the Accuplacer above the minimum score required (each test is weighted differently based on the importance of that skill to student success in this program).

Admission Requirements: To qualify for admission into the Practical Nursing Program there are three ways to qualify. S*tudents must meet or exceed entrance test scores as indicated in tables below where applicable*:

1. Admittance without 2-week intersession*:

Type of test	Mathematics	Reading	Language
ACCUPLACER -Next Generation	**270 (Arithmetic Test only)**	**250**	**241 (writing)**

Acceptable Substitutions to Accuplacer Tests:

Type of test	Mathematics	Reading	Language
ACT	N/A – Must take Next Generation Accuplacer Arithmetic Test	**20+**	**18+**
Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)	Composite score of 55% or higher		

2. Admittance with Two-Week Intersession** PNUR 1004:

(this class will be cancelled if there is no seats available after qualifying have been ranked)

Type of test	Mathematics-Arithmetic	Reading	Writing
ACCUPLACER -Next Generation	**250-269**	**237-249**	**241**

3. *PNUR 1001 Intro to Nursing***:*

Students unable to meet the Accuplacer Arithmetic scores outline above for the two-week intersession will be required to take PNUR 1001 and get a B or better in order to be allowed into the Practical Nursing program. As of Spring 2024, students will **not** have to take the Accuplacer an additional time after successful completion of this course and will not be required; although, it may increase ranking score to take Accuplacer and/or TEAS test.

Achievement of the minimum Accuplacer scores or completion of PNUR 1001 does not guarantee acceptance / admittance to into the Practical Nursing Program. Minimum Accuplacer scores or successful completion of PNUR 1001 must be achieved to be eligible to apply for acceptance / admittance into the Practical Nursing Program. The final determination of eligible students that will be accepted / admitted into the PN Program will be based on a ranking of all eligible candidates and the total number of available spots in the next cohort.

***NOTES for Admittance without 2-week Intersession:**

1. Students with **scores below the minimum requirements after the 3rd attempt for the Accuplacer or TEAS, MUST enroll in the appropriate preparation course(s)**
2. 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.
3. Candidates applying to the Practical Nursing Program may retake the ACCUPLACER/TEAS with a minimum **one (1) week waiting period** between each retest unless approved to take closer together by the Associate Provost of Health Sciences and Nursing.
    a. Candidates can **retest two times only** for Accuplacer (total of 3 attempts to meet scores). After 3rd attempt, must enroll in preparation course(s) as applicable. Only the Associate Provost of Health Sciences and Nursing may approve additional attempts.
    b. ACCUPLACER test scores are valid for (3) three years.
4. TEAS tests can be taken twice a semester. There is no limit to how many times a student can take the TEAS test outside of the twice per semester limit. Scores are valid for 3 years. Highest score will be accepted.
5. Candidates whose **scores meet or exceed the ranges listed above are exempted** from preparation course(s).

****NOTES for Admittance with Two-Week Intersession PNUR 1004:**

1. Starting Spring 2024, our students have additional options if their Accuplacer scores do not meet the current admission requirements.
2. If students are in the point spread as outlined above they will be required to take a two-week intersession and pass it with a B or better. Please see table above for the scores required to be allowed into the two-week intersession.
3. Students must still meet other GPA requirements and meet deadlines to be provisionally admitted into the program.
4. Students will still be admitted based on the ranking system.
5. This class will be cancelled if there is no seats available after qualifying have been ranked

Admittance into the program is dependent on the successful completion of the two-week intersession to ensure college-readiness. If a student is not successful, their seat for the Practical Nursing program will be revoked.

*****NOTES for PNUR 1001 Intro to Nursing:**

1. Starting Spring 2024, our students have additional options if their Accuplacer scores do not meet the current admission requirements.
2. Students must still meet other GPA requirements and meet deadlines to be provisionally admitted into the program.
3. Students will still be admitted based on the ranking system.
4. Students who have completed the PNUR 1001 will rank higher than those who are still enrolled in the course.
5. Students will not be required to take the two-week intersession but must pass with a B or better in PNUR 1001 in the last 3 years-effective Fall 2023 semester enrolled students.

Admittance into the program is dependent on the successful completion of PNUR 1001 to ensure college-readiness. If a student is not successful, their seat for the Practical Nursing program will be revoked.

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

- Ability to obtain CPR (BLS) 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, QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test (QFT-G), or Chest x-ray
- Background check completion through Louisiana State Police, which can around $40. Wait for further instructions prior to completing
- $50.00, plus State charges will need to be paid to the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners. This will be paid via the Nurse Portal with a debit or credit card. More information on this will be given to students at the informational meeting upon acceptance
- Additional criminal background check required for clinical courses – check with the campus for specific information
- Drug screening – See NTCC Drug Screen Policy
- 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.

Revised: 10/1/16, 11/7/16, 1/2/19, 7/3/2019, 6/18/2020; 7/21/2020; 1/12/2021, 10/21/21, 11/7/23, 6/12/24