



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

REVISED - Effective Spring Semester 2026 (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 Dean and/or Assistant Dean 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 or TEAS 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; or if the candidate has successfully passed PNUR 1001 with a B or better (a B or better in PNUR 1001 does not replace required Accuplacer or TEAS scores).

PNUR 1001 is a pre-nursing class designed to assist in improving a candidate's Accuplacer scores. Passing PNUR 1001 is no longer a qualifier for admission into the nursing program.

Following completion of PNUR 1001 students must still achieve Accuplacer or TEAS scores. Students that have exhausted the three attempts and have earned a B or better in PNUR 1001 will be allowed to take the Accuplacer a fourth time without needing special permission from the Dean of Health Sciences and Nursing.

Admission Requirements: To qualify for admission into the Practical Nursing Program, *students must meet or exceed entrance test scores as indicated in tables below:*

***Qualifying test scores MUST be within last 3 years and the first 3 score attempts. For a student to qualify for eligibility for a 4th attempt, the student must complete the PNUR 1001 course first. Additional attempts after the 3rd attempt for students who have not taken/passed PNUR 1001 with a B or better, must be approved by the Dean of Health Sciences and Nursing for the student to meet qualifications for entry. Any attempt after the 3rd attempt will not be considered a qualifying score unless approved prior to testing. The only exclusion for the 3rd attempt would be if the first test score date has expired (over 3 years).

Accuplacer and TEAS Testing at Northshore:

- Accuplacer Testing is offered at all campuses.
- TEAS Testing is offered at our Lacombe and Hammond campus.
- For entrance purposes Accuplacer and TEAS Scores will only be accepted if taken in person at an NTCC Campus.
- Accuplacer and TEAS test taken at any other location or online will not be accepted

Type of Test	Mathematics	Reading	Language
Accuplacer – Next Generation	255 (Arithmetic Test Only)	250	250 (writing)

Acceptable Substitutions to Accuplacer Test:

Type of Test	Mathematics	Reading	Language
ACT	N/A – Must be Next Generation Accuplacer Arithmetic Test	20+	18+
Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)	Composite score of 60% or higher		

***NOTES**

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 Dean of Health Sciences and Nursing.
4. Candidates whose **scores meet or exceed the ranges listed above are exempted** from preparation course(s)

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.

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