

Practical Nursing Diploma Program ***Major Code PN12***

Students seeking admission into the Practical Nursing Diploma Program for Fall Semester 2015, will enroll in the Health Care Assistant-Health Care Technician option and complete the required courses (COLL 1040, ENGL 1010, MATH 1012, PSYC 1010, ALHS 1011, ALHS 1060, ALMA 1000) for the Practical Nursing program.

The Practical Nursing program is designed to prepare students to write the NCLEX-PN for licensure as practical nurses. The program prepares graduates to give competent nursing care. This is done through a selected number of general core and occupational courses providing a variety of techniques and materials necessary to assist the student in acquiring the needed knowledge and skills to give competent care. A variety of clinical experiences are planned so that theory and practice are integrated under the guidance of the clinical instructor. Program graduates receive a practical nursing diploma and have the qualifications of an entry-level practical nurse.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates from this program will have a variety of employment opportunities awaiting them. After successfully passing the licensure exam, graduate nurses can work in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and physician offices.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

After successful completion of the Practical Nursing program, a graduate will apply to sit for the licensure exam. When this exam is passed, the graduate will receive a license to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the state of Georgia.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- Submit a completed application and application fee;
- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Submit an official copy of your high school transcript or high school equivalent scores;
- Submit official college transcripts, if applicable;
- Meet the following assessment requirements:

Test	Reading	Writing	Numerical	Algebra
ACCUPLACER	55	60	34	
ASSET	38	37	32	
COMPASS	70	32	26	
SAT	430		400	
ACT	13	12	17	
GAHSGT	235	235		

PRACTICAL NURSING ADMISSION

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

After successful completion of the Practical Nursing program, a graduate will apply to sit for the licensure exam. When this exam is passed, the graduate will receive a license to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the state of Georgia.

Beginning Spring 2015, all students must successfully pass the TEAS with a benchmark score of at least 55% to be eligible for admission. Students are highly encouraged to complete MATH 1012, ALHS 1011 and ENGL 1010 prior to taking the TEAS test. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Admissions Office when these courses have been completed in order to schedule a time for testing.

TEAS-V Guidelines:

- Students will be allowed three (3) attempts to score the required adjusted individual score of 55%.
- It is recommended that students wait a minimum of 30 days between each attempt.
- The attempts and scores will apply to the admission criteria of both the practical and associate nursing programs. Therefore, students are allowed three (3) total exam attempts regardless of program choice.
- TEAS-V scores will be valid for three (3) calendar years.

Selection into the Practical Nursing program is a competitive process. All applicants who have met the minimum requirements will be eligible for admission.

- Possess a 3.0 GPA. In the event that a class does not meet capacity, students possessing a 2.75 GPA will be considered;
- Option of completion of the Health Care Assistant- Health Care Technician option or completion of the Health Care Science – Associate of Science in Nursing option in addition to the completion of ALHS 1060;

Upon notification by your instructor, you must complete these necessary forms:

- Verification of birth;
- Forensic Drug Screening and Criminal Background Check conducted by PreCheck;
- Affidavit of Non-Drug Dependency/Felony Conviction;
- Hepatitis B Consent or Declination Form; and
- Immunization Forms (TB Skin Test, Tdap Vaccination, MMR Vaccinations, Varicella Vaccinations, Annual Flu Vaccine)

PRACTICAL NURSING CURRICULUM

Once a student has met the criteria above, then he/she will follow the sequence of Practical Nursing Practice courses outlined below. After completing the general core and occupational classes listed below, the program generally takes a minimum of 3 consecutive semester terms to complete. To graduate, students must earn a minimum of 60 semester credit hours. Students may enter the program in either Fall or Spring semesters on the Swainsboro or Vidalia campus (day classes only). Students may contact the admissions office for more information.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE		CREDITS
GENERAL CORE COURSES		12
COLL 1040	College Foundations (Institutional Credit Only) **	3
ENGL 1010	Fundamentals of English I	3
MATH 1012	Foundations of Mathematics	3
PSYC 1010	Basic Psychology	3
PRE-PRACTICAL NURSING ADMISSION OCCUPATIONAL COURSES		7
ALHS 1011	Structure and Function of Human Body	5
ALHS 1060	Diet and Nutrition for Allied Health Sciences	2
ALMA 1000	Allied Health Math Applications (Institutional Credit Only)**	0
PRACTICAL NURSING OCCUPATIONAL COURSES		41
PNSG 2010	Introduction to Pharmacology and Clinical Calculations	2
PNSG 2030	Nursing Fundamentals	6
PNSG 2035	Nursing Fundamentals Clinical	2
PNSG 2210	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	4
PNSG 2310	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical I	2
PNSG 2220	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	4
PNSG 2320	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical II	2
PNSG 2230	Medical-Surgical Nursing III	4
PNSG 2330	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical III	2
PNSG 2240	Medical-Surgical Nursing IV	4
PNSG 2340	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical IV	2
PNSG 2250	Maternity Nursing	3
PNSG 2255	Maternity Nursing Clinical	1
PNSG 2410	Nursing Leadership	1
PNSG 2415	Nursing Leadership Clinical	2

** Students who are transferring in from another college MUST take COLL 1040 and ALMA 1000 before admission into the nursing program.

** ALHS 1011 must be taken in the traditional class setting and must be taken within five years of starting the PN program.

The following courses will be considered as GPA calculation courses for nursing program placement:

ENGL	MATH	PSYC	ALHS	ALHS
1010	1012	1010	1011	1060

The above classes in addition to COLL 1040 and ALMA 1000 must be completed before program eligibility. COLL 1040 should ideally be taken the first semester you are enrolled at STC and ALMA 1000 must be taken within the three consecutive semesters prior to program admission, or being placed on the practical nursing waiting list, but after completion of MATH 1012.

Special Note: A grade of "C" or higher is required in any course in Practical Nursing in order to remain in the program.

PROGRAM COSTS

(Costs are estimates and are subject to change.)

Tuition/Fees: \$7,788

Books/Supplies: \$600

PreCheck Background Screening: \$84.50

Licensure Exam: \$240

ATI Testing Fees: \$800

ATI Comprehensive Exam: \$50.00 (If a third attempt is required)

STC Practical Nursing pin: \$15-\$65

Cogent Background: \$52.90

NF 95 Fit Testing: \$20

AHA BLS CPR and First Aid certification (which must remain current throughout the program): \$50

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEATURES

The Georgia Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses (GBELPN) determines graduate eligibility to sit for the national licensure exam. The graduate is required to submit an extensive confidential application to the Board. The application includes information regarding any prior arrests and felony convictions.

CLINICAL EDUCATION

Number of Clinical Sites: Approximately 40

General Location of the Clinical Sites:

Toombs, Montgomery, Tattnall, Candler, Emanuel, Jenkins, Johnson, Treutlen, and Wheeler counties. Please note some clinical sites may be located outside of the immediate service delivery area.

Special Requirements of the Clinical Sites

Special requirements of the Georgia Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses as well as Clinical Sites include:

- Up-to-date immunization records,
- Drug screen and criminal background check, and
- Successful completion and current American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR certification.

Clinical Education Courses

Each nursing semester requires successful completion of the designated theory class for that semester before a student can attend the clinical part of the program. Clinicals are designed to give the student a real-life work experience of a Licensed Practical Nurse in a specific medical setting.

Clinical Education Courses include:		Hours:
PNSG 2035	Nursing Fundamentals Clinical	75
PNSG 2310	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical I	75
PNSG 2320	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical II	75
PNSG 2330	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical III	75
PNSG 2340	Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical IV	75
PNSG 2255	Maternity Nursing Clinical	37.5
PNSG 2415	Nursing Leadership Clinical	75

There are specific rules and guidelines that must be followed in order to successfully pass each clinical course. Clinical attendance is strictly enforced as mandated by the GBELPN. Any missed days of clinical must be made up.

Clinical Assignments

Clinicals usually begin at 6:30 a.m., but may be earlier or later depending on the individual clinical sites. Clinicals may be any time of the day or night, including weekends. Students are required to spend the time designated by the GBELPN in each clinical area. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the clinical site.

Progression

In order to continue in the nursing program, the student must:

- Maintain a grade of C or better in all required courses.
- Achieve a passing score (100%) on the required medication administration exams.
- Be acceptable by clinical agencies for clinical experiences. Students must demonstrate safe practice in care of clients and exercise appropriate judgment as beginning level practitioners.
- Maintain ability to meet essential functions for nursing.
- Maintain compliance with health policy and current health care provider CPR certification.

A student that has an unsuccessful attempt in a nursing course (W, D, or F) cannot progress until the course is completed successfully. Course repetition will be based on guidelines outlined in the readmission procedure.

Withdrawal and/or a D or F in one or more nursing courses in a term is considered one unsuccessful attempt.

Readmission to the Practical Nursing Program

Based on space availability, readmission may be considered for the following:

- Students who withdraw with Withdraw.
- Students who fail to complete a course with a grade of C or better.

Students can only be readmitted ONCE to any practical nursing course. Any student who has withdrawn or failed any nursing course(s) more than once will not be considered for readmission.

Students must request reinstatement within one year from the term of withdrawal or failure.

Any student requesting readmission must reapply to the Admissions office at least two months prior to the appropriate start date.

Students must submit to the Program Director:

- A letter requesting readmission that includes:
 - Last semester and nursing program attended; reason for withdrawal, dismissal or failure; reason why he/she desires to be readmitted; and the circumstances which have changed to indicate the applicant would be successful in completing his/her nursing education.
- The college required documents for proof of current BLS CPR certification, immunizations, criminal background check and drug screen.

Students applying for re-entry beyond the first semester must take course challenge exam(s), pharmacology calculation test, and clinical competency evaluation. Students must score 80 or better on the challenge exams and score 100% on the pharmacology test. Students must successfully complete a clinical competency evaluation at the same level of competency expected for the proposed course.

Readmission to the nursing program is not guaranteed. Selection for reinstatement is based on GPA at the current institution and space availability. Reinstatement will be denied due to, but not limited to, any of the following circumstances:

- Grade point average is less than 2.0 from nursing occupational courses, either PNSG prefixes completed at the current institution;
- Refusal by clinical agencies to accept the student for clinical experiences;
- Students who receive one Level 1 infractions or two Level 2 infractions;
- Twelve months have elapsed since the student was enrolled in a nursing course;
- Student has been dismissed from the program

Students dismissed from the previous program for disciplinary reasons and/or unsafe/unsatisfactory client care in the clinical area will not be allowed readmission to the nursing program.

In the event more than one student meets the requirements for re-admission, the following criteria will be utilized to determine the best candidate for re-admission:

- TEAS adjusted individual score: 60%
- GPA: 40%

Students may be eligible for academic forgiveness 5 years after last nursing course attempted and may apply for readmit to the first nursing course.

Transfer

The transfer procedure applies only to students desiring to transfer between Technical College System of Georgia including college campus programs.

Any student requesting transfer must apply to the Admissions office at least two months prior to the appropriate start date.

Based on space availability, transfer may be considered for students meeting the following criteria.

Students must:

- meet minimum admission standards for the nursing program.
- possess a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA at time of transfer.
- be a student in good standing and eligible to return to the previous nursing program.
- provide a letter of recommendation from the Dean/Director/Instructor of the previous program.

Students must submit:

- The college required documents for proof of current BLS CPR certification, immunizations, criminal background check and drug screen.

Students applying for transfer beyond the first semester must take course challenge exam(s), pharmacology calculation test, and clinical competency evaluation. Students must score 80 or better on the challenge exams and score 100% on the pharmacology test. Students must successfully complete a clinical competency evaluation at the same level of competency expected for the proposed course.

Students can only be readmitted for transfer ONCE to any practical nursing course. Any student who has withdrawn or failed any nursing course(s) more than once will not be considered for transfer.

Students will be accepted for transfer between college programs one time only.

Acceptance of transfer students into nursing programs is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available.

Meeting minimal standards does not guarantee acceptance.

In the event more than one student meets the requirements for transfer, the following criteria will be utilized to determine the best candidate for transfer

- TEAS adjusted individual score: 60%
- GPA: 40%