

## Practical Nursing Program FAQ's

Revised 12-20-2011

1. What if I want/need to go more part-time than the 2 year Practical Nursing (PN) Program? Is that possible?
  - a. There are several options for the PN program. The part time option takes two years with summer off. It is not possible to plan to go through the program more slowly.
2. Are there any Practical Nursing (PN) courses available on line? If so which are available online?
  - a. Yes there are three PNUR courses available completely online
  - b. Courses available online include:
    - i. PNUR 1130 Life Span (1 credit)
    - ii. PNUR 1132 Infection Control (1 credit)
    - iii. PNUR 1138 Medical Terminology (1 credit)
3. Where can I get CPR training? Is there a special course I should get for the Practical Nursing (PN) Program?
  - a. CPR training is held at many area Hospitals; call the education department of the hospital in your area. It is also offered through CLC customized training: EMTS 1503: CPR for Health Care Professional.
  - b. The CPR course that you need as a prerequisite for admission to the PN program is:  
American Heart Associate: Health Care Provider  
American Red Cross: Professional Rescuer
4. What programs are offered for the Practical Nursing (PN) Program, when do they start and on what campuses?
  - a. Practical Nursing at Central Lakes College offers several program choices, program plans are all listed on the PN web page found at: <http://www.clcmn.edu/programs/lpn.html> and include:
    - i. Fall full time start at the Brainerd campus (begins in August and ends in June of the following year).
    - ii. Fall full time start at the Staples campus (begins in August and ends in June of the following year).
    - iii. Part time at the Brainerd campus (begins in fall, involves fall, spring, fall and spring with a March completion)
    - iv. January start at the Brainerd campus (begins in spring semester and end the following March)
5. What if I want to be an LPN in North Dakota? Do I need to do something different in the program or take different courses?
  - a. For licensure with another state you need to contact that states' Board of Nursing.
6. When is the Practical Nursing (PN) Program orientation held? Is it mandatory? How do I find out about it?
  - a. The PN Program orientation is held at the campus you will be taking your courses.
  - b. PN Program orientation is mandatory.

- c. When you are accepted to the PN Program you will receive a letter from the admissions department. When the mandatory orientation has been scheduled you will receive a letter providing the date and time.
- 7. Do I need to take any courses prior to admission to the Practical Nursing (PN) program? If so, what are they?
  - a. Yes you do need to take some prerequisites to meet the admission criteria for acceptance into the PN Program.
  - b. The prerequisites are:
    - CPR: Health Care Provider or Professional Rescuer
    - BIOL 1404 Human Biology (3cr)
    - OR
    - BIOL 2467\* Anatomy & Physiology I (4cr)
    - AND
    - BIOL 2468\* Anatomy & Physiology II (4cr)
    - ENGL 1410 Composition I (4 cr.)
    - NSGA 1110 Nursing Assistant (3cr)
- 8. What other application requirements are there for admission to the Practical Nursing Program?
  - a. Completed application form for admission to the Practical Nursing Program
  - b. Completed Accuplacer with the following minimum scores:
    - i. Reading 78 or higher
    - ii. Arithmetic 65 or higher
    - iii. Elementary Algebra 52 or higher
  - c. If a student's score falls below the minimum requirements for application to the Practical Nursing Program, the student must take recommended classes and achieve a grade of "C" or better (if reading) or for math, complete the first 7 modules with the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher.
- 9. Can I attend a session to get information about the Practical Nursing (PN) Programs available at Central Lakes College (CLC) before I apply? If so, when are they held? How do I find out about them?
  - a. Information sessions about the Practical Nursing (PN) Program are held at nearly every EZ enrollment held at CLC
  - b. For EZ enrollment session scheduling, check the web site at: <http://www.clcmn.edu/registration/>
- 10. Is there a Practical Nursing (PN) Program spring term start option?
  - a. See answer to #4, above.
- 11. Is there a Practical Nursing (PN) Program part time option?
  - a. See answer to #4, above.
- 12. Where can I find the Practical Nursing (PN) Program planning forms?
  - a. These are found via a link at this web page: <http://www.clcmn.edu/programs/lpn.html>
- 13. Where can I find the Practical Nursing (PN) Program Handbook?
  - a. The PN Program Handbook is found via a link at this web page: <http://www.clcmn.edu/programs/lpn.html>

14. What is included in the Practical Nursing (PN) Program Handbook?
  - a. To know what is included in the handbook, please view the handbook from the link found at this web page: <http://www.clcmn.edu/programs/lpn.html>
15. What nursing classes can I take prior to being admitted to the Practical Nursing (PN) Program?
  - a. The prerequisites to the PN Program are listed at #7 above.
  - b. NSGA 1110 (Nursing Assistant) is a prerequisite; PNUR courses cannot be taken until acceptance to the PN program and in sequential progression according to the program planning form. An exception may be made in the following two courses only with the permission of the instructor:
    - i. PNUR 1130 Live Span
    - ii. PNUR 1138 Medical Terminology
16. Are there any additional fees associated with the Practical Nursing (PN) Program?
  - a. There are several fees that are included in the nursing courses as part of a differential tuition including:
    - i. Liability insurance
    - ii. Criminal background check
    - iii. Lab equipment and supplies
  - b. There are two additional fees which are not included in differential tuition that are attached to courses
    - i. Assessment Technologies Incorporated (ATI) Assessment testing is \$50 and ATI NCLEX-RN review course is \$300. The \$50 fee will be attached to PNUR 1270 and the \$300 fee will be attached to PNUR 1163.
17. Are there any special requirements associated with the Practical Nursing (PN) Program?
  - a. There are several special requirements associated with the PN program
    - i. Admission to the PN program involves taking the ACCUPLACER within the last two years and meeting cut score admission criteria (see PN Handbook and #7 above)
    - ii. Students entering the PN Program must complete an immunization record and health form (see PN Handbook)
    - iii. Students entering the PN Program must pass a criminal background study (see PN handbook)
    - iv. There is a dress code for nursing lab and clinical (see PN handbook)
    - v. There are many policies associated with the PN program including a clinical absence policy, confidentiality, a drug testing policy and more (see PN handbook)
  - b. The PN Handbook can be found at: <http://www.clcmn.edu/programs/lpn.html>
18. If I am a Practical Nursing (PN) student at one campus, will I be able to take all of my required course work at that campus?
  - a. Yes, all the PNUR classroom courses will all be available at the campus you have been assigned or accepted to.
19. Where are the Practical Nursing (PN) program clinical sites?

- a. There are many clinical sites that a nursing student may be assigned to including clinics, long term care, home care etc. but the 5 main Hospital sites are:
    - i. Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby
    - ii. Lakewood Health System in Staples
    - iii. Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin
    - iv. St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls
    - v. Essentia Health System: St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd
20. How are Practical Nursing (PN) students assigned to the sites?
- a. Students register for their clinical sites
21. Is the Practical Nursing (PN) Program offered online, evenings or weekends?
- a. No, the PN program is not offered online, evenings or weekends.
  - b. There are three PNUR courses that are offered completely online:
    - i. PNUR 1130 (Life Span, 1 credit)
    - ii. PNUR 1132 (Infection Control, 1 credit)
    - iii. PNUR 1138 (Medical Terminology, 1 credit)
  - c. Some PN clinical sections are offered in the evenings partially or completely.
22. What convictions will disqualify me from becoming getting my nursing license in Minnesota?
- a. To answer this question the prospective student will need to contact the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Licensing Division @ 444 Lafayette Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-3842; phone: (651)296-3971; web address: [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us).
23. What are the approximate total costs of the Practical Nursing (PN) Program including tuition/fees, books, supplies, uniforms, etc.?
- a. Total approximate cost changes every year related to tuition costs, book costs, number of credits taken, etc.
  - b. Generally two uniforms tops (white) and pants (black scrubs), one pair of white shoes and one (white) lab coat will meet the uniform requirements and should run about \$100-\$150.
  - c. Books are generally most expensive for the first semester (many books are used again in most subsequent PNUR courses), first semester books may be \$800-\$1000.
  - d. Equipment necessary includes a watch with a second hand, a stethoscope and bandage scissors. Total costs for these vary a great deal. The Nursing Club usually offers a stethoscope purchase in the fall allowing students to purchase a quality stethoscope with choices of price range.
  - e. In preparation for taking the NCLEX-PN, a predictive assessment examination is required as part of PNUR 1270 course completion and will be administered during the last half of the course. This exam will identify areas of weakness that need remediation prior to taking the licensure examination. The fee for this test is \$50 and is attached to PNUR 1270.
  - f. In preparation for taking the NCLEX-PN, a comprehensive live NCLEX-RN review is required as part of PNUR 1163 and will be schedule during the semester in which this course is taken. The fee for this test is \$300 and is attached to PNUR 1163.
24. How do nursing licenses transfer between states?

- a. Licensed nursing (or nursing student seeking to become licensed in any state) must contact each state's Board of Nursing to determine this.
25. What are the top things that current or former students report they needed to know before entering the Practical Nursing (PN) Program?
- a. Check online class schedules immediately when the semester begins. Look through all seated class schedules and write everything down in a planner. There could be a test or paper due very quickly. Don't let it be a surprise.
  - b. It seems that around mid-semester; there are about 100 things due at once. Use the less busy times to prepare.
  - c. Know that it takes more time to study than you would originally think. It's not impossible, you just have to stay organized and focused
  - d. Stay on top of your homework assignments as much as possible. It can be overwhelming but it's a lot better to get it done right away rather than stressing and doing it at the last minute. If you have questions, ask your instructors and talk with them if you're feeling behind or confused on something. Make sure you understand the information because everything you've learned you need to know at some point whether it is on finals, boards or when you start working. If you don't ask question and clarify, you'll be missing something important that can really make a difference in the future.
  - e. Stay on top of school work because you won't be able to "float" through the program... it's difficult. Use resources when you have question.
  - f. You need to have time management skills. You do a lot of studying outside of class. Get to know your fellow students, you will spend a lot of time with them, study groups do help. Take the time to talk to students who have already been through the course. It's a lot of hard work and takes up a lot of your time but it's well worth it.
  - g. Time management skills. If you procrastinate on your studies it shows. The program is hard work, and it takes a lot of time, so you need to be able to prioritize.
  - h. Be organized, have all things in order; example: immunization forms, keep CPR and Mantoux up to date, don't wait to be reminded, you may fall behind in clinical or be in danger of being out of the program if you don't keep your information up to date.
26. What information would current Practical Nursing (PN) students like to share with incoming students?
- a. For each credit taken it isn't the usual 2 hours of outside classroom time studying I would say it is 3 hours each credit taken
  - b. If you have a family, you will need a support person or persons. You will need to have time to get your assignments done and you will have to be able to prioritize. It is going to take away from the time you would normally spend with your family. It is difficult to balance home and school. I had no idea coming into the course how many papers were required in the first semester and how many role plays we would need to do. You are going to want to know your math and comp before you start 😊. This is a program that demands you work for your grade and all of the classes are needed to help you become the best nurse possible. Work ahead whenever possible. I worked ahead on my med cards, so instead of spending

- time doing them the night before they were due I could study for other tests or do other homework
- c. It's hard work, but hopefully you will love and enjoy becoming a nurse as much as I did. I know that if nursing wasn't something I had a passion for I probably wouldn't have made it through. Also to really take the time and read every chapter assignment that is given to you and keep up once you fall behind it is near impossible to catch up and take the time to know your med terminology it really helps on everything
  - d. Your family life will suffer some. You will find yourself awake at 3 a.m. and then log onto D2L and notice that half of your cohort is on also! I don't even watch TV anymore because there is not time for it. If you find yourself with extra time on your hands, jump ahead and start researching for your paper or work ahead. Any little bit helps. Remember to find some time for yourself before you get too overwhelmed. You don't want to stress your body out.
  - e. Everything seems overwhelming at first. You may ask yourself, "Why am I subjecting myself to all this?" However, it does get better and more manageable as time goes on. Change your current way of thinking. What you have seen, done, overheard, thought or previously learned, may not be the right answer. Challenge your instructors. Keep them on their toes and always ask questions if you don't understand something. They should respond to your desire to learn. Go to any NCLEX-PN practice tests.
  - f. Stay calm, be positive and you will be just fine. You will get out of classes what you put into them so study in ways that work for you. Put the effort into each class and you will soar.
  - g. Program is hard; the teachers ask a lot of you, as they should. They are understanding and will go above and beyond to help you understand things. Attend all classes