

PROGRAMS

PRACTICAL NURSING

Stanly Community College

Introduction to

Practical Nursing Program

What is a practical nurse?

The practical nurse (LPN) performs bedside clinical care and is trained in the fundamentals of biological sciences. Courses include basic nursing care, behavioral sciences, and biological sciences. Critical thinking is stressed in all phases of the practical nursing program. Individuals who excel in this program have excellent critical thinking skills, great attention to detail, and display both compassion and confidence in their work.

What do practical nurses do?

LPNs perform bedside nursing care in acute care facilities, long-term care facilities and often work as frontline managers in nursing homes and extended care facilities. The LPN works under the guidance of an RN, MD, DO, DDS, CRNA, NP or certified Nurse-Midwife to identify the nursing problems of a client and report these findings to their collaborating teammate. The LPN can administer medications, provide continuity of care to patients and/or residents, and is expected to reinforce teaching to clients in all areas.

Where do practical nurses work? LPNs work in acute care settings, nursing homes, physicians' offices, schools, social service agencies, private care, travel nursing agencies, and freestanding clinics such as urgent care facilities. An increasing number of home health and hospice agencies are utilizing LPNs in many areas according to state regulations and Nurse Practice Acts.

Why should I choose SCC?

The Practical Nursing Program at SCC offers educational requirements that allow students to become an LPN in 12 months. The three-semester timeframe includes general education requirements as well as practical nursing courses. The program classes are designed to allow the student to work part-time or full-time, especially on the weekends. SCC's program is recognized and accredited by the North Carolina Board of Nursing and the National League of Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA).

The Practical Nursing curriculum provides knowledge and skills to integrate safety and quality into nursing care to meet the needs of the holistic individual, impacting health, quality of life and the achievement of potential.

Course work will include and build upon the domains of healthcare, nursing practice and the holistic or whole individual. Course content will emphasize safety, individualized nursing care and participation in the interdisciplinary team while employing evidence-based practice, quality improvement and informatics.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) which is required for licensure and practice as a practical nurse (LPN). Employment opportunities are growing and include acute care facilities such as hospitals, rehabilitation and long-term care facilities, home health, outpatient and ambulatory clinics and provider offices.

The Stanly Community College Practical Nursing program is committed to providing accessible high-quality nursing education in order to meet the diverse and ever-changing health care needs of patients, and promoting the development of highly qualified graduates prepared to meet those needs. This program provides an education that is of high quality, progressive and sensitive to the needs of the individual and community. The Core Competencies for Practical Nursing, as defined by the National League of Nurses (NLN) are the discrete and measurable skills essential for the practice of nursing and are a foundation for the curriculum of the practical nursing program.

They include:

- Human Flourishing: Promoting the human dignity, integrity, self determination and personal growth of patients, the nurse and other members of the health care team
- Nursing Judgment: Providing a rationale for judgment used in the provision of safe quality care and for decisions that promote the health of patients within a family context
- Professional Identity: The ability to assess how personal strengths and values affect the identity of the nurse and their contributions to the health care team.
- Spirit of Inquiry: Questioning the basis for nursing actions, considering research, evidence, traditions and patient preferences.

Through the educational experiences offered students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for safe and clinically excellent practice.

Practical Nursing Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Establish safe practical nursing behaviors including accountability for entry-level practical nursing competence as demonstrated by a passing score (pass/fail only, no score is awarded) on the NCLEX-PN licensure exam as delineated by the rules and regulations of the North Carolina Board of Nursing.
- Communicate with individuals, significant support person(s), and members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
- Formulate holistic assessments to identify the needs of the individual in order to provide culturally competent client-centered care.
- Utilize healthcare informatics to apply research to practice for evidence-based practice, clinical judgments, and management decisions.
- Create nursing plans of care for clients across the life-span.
- Incorporate teaching and learning principles into their nursing practice.
- Manage healthcare for clients by utilizing cost-effective nursing strategies, quality improvement processes, and legal/ethical awareness to promote quality outcomes.

Practical Nursing Diploma - D45660

First Year		
Fall		Credit Hours
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1
BIO 168	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
NUR 101	Practical Nursing I	11
	Credit Hours	16
Spring		Credit Hours
BIO 169	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	3
NUR 102	Practical Nursing II	10
	Credit Hours	17
Summer		Credit Hours
NUR 103	Practical Nursing III	9
PSY 150	General Psychology	3
	Credit Hours	12
	Total Credit Hours	45