

## NURSING

### PRACTICAL NURSING CERTIFICATE LEADING TO LPN (157)

#### About Our Program

The Practical Nursing curriculum is designed to prepare beginning practitioners with the knowledge and skills, as entry level nurses, to care for patients of all age groups. Students will be prepared to assist in meeting the health needs of the community through provision of quality nursing care as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN). The program length is three semesters (one year). This program has been approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.

#### Opportunities For Employment

Opportunities for the Licensed Practical Nurse include employment in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, day-care centers, school systems, physicians' offices, rehabilitation facilities, industry, the military, home health, and private duty nursing.

#### Opportunities For Advancement

Many LPN's desire to further their education and pursue a degree as a Registered Nurse. An LPN to RN bridge program is available through MECC for interested students. Various Universities offer LPN to BSN bridge programs. Many LPN's choose to practice as an LPN, but may specialize in a particular field of medicine such as Obstetrics, Oncology, Surgery, or Rehabilitative Services.

#### Admission Requirements

Admission to the Practical Nursing program is a selective process. The Practical Nursing program is open to applicants who are free of any physical or mental condition which might adversely affect performance as a member of the nursing profession. In addition to the requirements for admission to the college, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

Completion of Practical Nursing Program Application for each academic year interested in being considered for the Practical Nursing program.

#### First phase of admission

1. Applicant's cumulative GPA must reflect a 2.5 or greater. GED recipients will be ranked according to their GED scores. GPA will be computed on most current coursework completed.
2. College placement scores indicating readiness for MTH 126 and ENG 111.
3. The completion of one unit of biology with a grade of "C" or better (BIO 101 or higher). Biology must have been completed within the last five (5) years. Applied biology and/or ecology does not meet this requirement.
4. Successful completion of all prescribed developmental work prior to admission into the Practical Nursing program.
5. If applicants meet the requirements listed above, students will be notified, by letter, of their selection by Enrollment Services for the second phase of admission. Only those students meeting the above requirements will be called for second phase of the admission process.

#### Second phase of admission

6. Submission of a essay addressing the question, "Why I want to become an LPN."
7. Completion of the Test of Essential Academic Skills version V (TEAS V). Applicants must complete all sections of the test. A minimum individualized adjusted score of 41.3% is required for admission.
8. Students will be given points for completion of curricular non-nursing coursework.
9. Accepted applicants will receive an acceptance letter in the mail upon satisfactory completion of all admission requirements. This acceptance letter must be turned into Enrollment Services by the deadline given or student forfeits their place within that semester's cohort.
10. Completion of the special physical examination, including the immunization schedule, prior to beginning nursing coursework. Accepted applicants will

receive a copy of the physical examination forms and a projected expense list with acceptance letters.

11. Physical examination forms must be turned in during program orientation.

Students should refer to the Practical Nursing Admission Process and the Health Science Program Application for published deadlines and admission criteria.

### **Special Note**

The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny licensure to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3008 of the Code of Virginia. Any student entering the Practical Nursing program who has committed any legal offenses other than minor traffic violations should discuss these matters with the Program Director of the Practical Nursing program prior to application.

### **Program Requirements**

The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college, off campus educational facilities, and selected community agencies, such as hospitals, nursing homes, physician's offices, and comparable facilities. The Practical Nursing faculty will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for nursing and direct patient care.

The Practical Nursing program faculty reserves the right to recommend, through appropriate channels, the withdrawal of any student who does not exhibit suitable demeanor/attendance.

Students must complete all first semester courses prior to completing any second semester courses; all second semester courses must be completed prior to completing any third semester courses. Students are encouraged to repeated courses within the next available semester but must be completed within one year of admission. If over one year, students will be required to submit an application and repeat all PNE coursework. Students dismissed from the program for any reason, will not be allowed re-admission.

Physical demands in this program include duties that frequently require squatting, bending, kneeling, reaching, stair climbing, lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds, frequent pushing and pulling up to 200 pounds with assistance, and occasional lifting and carrying up to 51-74 pounds. Duties also require

constant use of sight, hearing, touch, and speech. Environmental conditions include procedures that involve handling blood and body fluids using standard precautions.

### **Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening**

Background checks for criminal history and sex offender crimes against minors are required for entrance into clinical agencies. Students with convictions may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not be allowed to complete the program. Any questionable background check will be reported to the clinical agency. Clinical agencies have final say whether a student may attend clinical or not. If a student is denied admission into the clinical agency, the student will not be allowed to finish the program.

Clinical agencies require drug testing prior to placement of students for clinical rotations. Students with positive drug test results will be prohibited from clinical practice and will not be eligible to complete the program.

Cost of criminal background checks and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student.

### **Program Progression**

Any student who earns a final grade lower than "C" in any PNE course or HLT 130 must repeat the course and earn a final grade of "C" or better before taking the next course of sequence. Students are encouraged to repeated courses within the next available semester but must be completed within one year of admission. If over one year, students will be required to submit an application and repeat all PNE coursework. Students will be allowed ONE failure and repeat of ONE PNE course. Upon failure of second course, student will be dismissed from program and ineligible for readmission.

Applicants and enrolled students within the Practical Nursing program must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Any applicant or enrolled student who fails to maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater will be dismissed from the program.

All students will be required to complete ATI proctor exams in PNE 161, PNE 164, PNE 158, PNE 173, PNE 136 (OB and pedi), and PNE 145. Regardless of letter grade, a level 1 proficiency score is required to successfully complete the above listed coursework. Students who do not achieve a level 1 proficiency score will be given a grade of

“F” and be required to repeat the coursework. Students who are unsuccessful (grade D or F) within coursework will not be allowed to take the ATI proctor exams and will be given the grade earned for that course.

Reminder, students may only fail and repeat one PNE course. Upon second failure, student will be dismissed from program.

In the third semester (PNE 145), students will be given an ATI predictor exam. Students are required to score a minimum of 90% probability of passing boards on first attempt. Students will have two (2) attempts to earn the minimum score of 90% probability. Students who do not score the minimum of 90% probability on the exit exam will be given a grade of “F” for the course. Students will be required to repeat the PNE 145 coursework and take PNE 199-supervised study (graded as: satisfactory/unsatisfactory). Upon satisfactory completion of PNE 145 and PNE 199 coursework, students will be required to retake the predictor exams. Students will be given two (2) attempts to score 90% or greater probability of passing on first attempt. If 90% probability is not achieved, students will be given a grade of “F” in PNE 145 and will not earn the certificate of practical nursing and will be ineligible to retake the practical nursing certificate coursework.

Virginia Community College System policy states that no course may be taken more than twice (original enrollment and one repeat). There will be no exceptions to this policy.

### Special Considerations

Practical Nursing is an academically rigorous program, but one having the potential to provide a rewarding career for participants.

Practical Nursing classes begin in the fall and spring of each year. This program is a limited enrollment program that accepts a maximum of 25 students in the spring semester and 30 students in the fall semester.

Students are responsible for the following costs in addition to tuition, fees, and book costs: uniforms, CPR/First Aid certification, immunizations, physical exam, medical equipment (stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, pen light, watch with second hand, etc), and mandatory review and testing services throughout the program. Students are also responsible for their own transportation to the college and all clinical sites.

### Program Contacts

Lena L Whisenhunt, Program Director  
lwhisenhunt@mecc.edu

Renee Stanley, Associate Professor  
rstanley@mecc.edu

Mitzi Jones, Associate Professor  
mjones@mecc.edu

*Lec/Lab Crse  
Hrs./Hrs. Cr.*

### FIRST YEAR

#### First Semester

ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
PNE 161	Nursing-Health Changes I	4	6	6
	(Actual Clinical Hours - 24 geriatrics)			
PNE 174	Applied Pharm for PNs	1	0	1
	or MTH 126 <sup>3</sup> Math for Allied Health	2	0	2
PNE 143	Applied Nursing Skills	0	3	1
PNE 173	Pharmacology for PNs	1	0	1
PNE 155	Body Structure & Function	3	0	3
	or BIO 141/142 <sup>2</sup> Anat. & Physiology (8 cr. hrs. total)			
HLT 130	Nutrition & Diet Therapy	1	0	1
SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
	<b>Total</b>			<b>17/18</b>

#### Second Semester

PNE 162	Nursing-Health Changes II	4	18	10
	(Actual Clinical Hours - 180 MS/geri/mental hlth)			
PSY 231	Life Span Dev. Psych I	3	0	3
PNE 158	Mental Health	1	0	1
	<b>Total</b>			<b>14</b>

#### Third Semester

PNE 164	Nursing-Health Changes IV	4	18	10
	(Actual Clinical Hours - 240 MS/OB/pedi,ACE)			
PNE 136	Care of Matern, Nwbrn, Ped	4	0	4
PNE 145 <sup>1</sup>	Trends	1	0	1
PSY 232	Life Span Dev. Psych II	3	0	3
	<b>Total</b>			<b>18</b>

### 48/49 credits required to graduate

<sup>1</sup>PNE 199-Supervised Study will be required if 80% probability on NCLEX predictor is not achieved during Trends.

<sup>2</sup>May substitute BIO 141/142 for PNE 155

<sup>3</sup>May substitute MTH 126 for PNE 174

## Gainful Employment

Gainful Employment is the name of a 2010 U.S. Department of Education regulation requiring institutions to report certain information about Title IV eligible (financial aid eligible) educational programs that lead to gainful employment in a recognized occupation (GE programs).

<b>Certificate: Practical Nursing (LPN)</b>	<b>Program Code: 157</b>
CIP Code <sup>1</sup>	51.1613 Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training
CIP Code <sup>2</sup>	51.3901 Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training
SOC Code	<a href="#">29-2061 Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses</a>
Number of Students Completing Program <sup>3</sup>	25
Number of Students Completing Program within Normal Time (On-Time Completion Rate) <sup>3</sup>	6 (24%)
In-State Total Tuition & Fees <sup>4</sup>	\$5,978.00
Out-of-State Total Tuition & Fees <sup>4</sup>	\$15,366.40
Books & Supplies <sup>5</sup>	\$1,500.00
Number of Students Completing Program with any Student Loan Debt <sup>3</sup>	0
Median Title IV Loan Debt	\$0.00
Median Private Loan Debt	\$0.00
Median Institutional Loan Debt	\$0.00
Job Placement Rate for Program Completers <sup>6</sup>	64%

<sup>1</sup>CIP Code was provided by MECC's Financial Aid Office.

<sup>2</sup>Virginia Community College System uses the parent plan code (middle three digits within program code) to identify CIP Code which crosswalks to SOC code career path.

<sup>3</sup> Number of students completing program between July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 and excluding dual-enrollment high school students' attendance until high school graduation is completed.

<sup>4</sup> Total tuition and fees are based on the 2011-12 academic year and are subject to change.

<sup>5</sup> Total books and supplies are based on the 2011-12 academic year and are subject to change.

<sup>6</sup> All students who completed between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 are included in this calculation. This job placement rate looks only at jobs that were in the field of study. This rate is based on program completers who were employed within 180 days of completion. Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) data and the 2009-10 MECC Graduate Follow-up Survey results were used to identify employed students. VEC data does not include federal employment, military employment or employers from other states.