

CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CURRICULUM

The Practical Nursing Program is offered during one calendar year for a full-time program, or two-calendar years for the part-time program. It is divided into four (4) Levels of instruction totaling 1504 hours. Each student will be given a current school calendar upon admission.

Nursing courses consist of theoretical instruction and clinical experience. Students learn to administer nursing care to selected clients under the direct guidance of the faculty.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: LEVEL I

Anatomy & Physiology

Basic principles of Anatomy and Physiology are presented with elementary chemistry and microbiology. The structure, functions and interrelationships of all body systems are presented from the simple to the complex and discussed as they related to the maintenance of wellness.

Fundamentals of Nursing

Introduces principles, skills and the role of the PN in meeting the basic human needs of individuals. Through lectures, demonstrations, lab simulations and supervised clinical experience, the student develops skills to perform basic nursing care and assessments. The student utilizes the nursing process on a beginning level with various stages of wellness. Clinical experience is provided on a general medical-surgical floor in the hospital or general care unit in a long-term care facility with maximum supervision.

Nutrition

This course focuses on the foundational concepts of nutrition essential for nursing. Emphasis is placed on nutritional needs of the body, the nutritional content foods, and the special nutritional needs of different populations and age groups.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: LEVEL II

Medical/Surgical I

Students become familiar with fundamental processes, health and illnesses interaction of the mind and body and care of the geriatric patient. Focus is on the GI systems, surgical clients, immunological disorders and musculoskeletal disorders. Pharmacology is integrated throughout. Clinical experiences are provided in a skilled long-term care facility, medical-surgical units and any specialty area available with moderate faculty supervision.

Maternal Child Health

Offers a study of nursing based upon the childbearing family. The prenatal, gestational, intrapartum and postpartum experiences are stressed. Care of the child throughout various stages of growth and development are studied. Included are concepts related to the maintenance of wellness and nursing care of the childbearing family during acute and long term illnesses. Selected community experiences may be employed as indicated. Related Pharmacology and nutritional therapy are included throughout Maternal Child Health.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: LEVEL III

Medical/Surgical II

Focus is on the pathophysiology and nursing care of clients with cardiovascular and endocrine disorders and fluid and electrolyte imbalances. Students learn IV insertion, phlebotomy, and proper medication administration, first in laboratory simulation and then in clinical with maximum faculty guidance. Clinical experiences are provided at medical surgical units in the hospital and long-term care facilities.

Pediatrics

Focuses on care of the child throughout various stages of gestational growth and development. Included are concepts related to the maintenance of wellness and nursing care of the childbearing family. Clinical sites utilized are selected community experiences. Related pharmacology and nutrition are also included.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: LEVEL IV

Medical-Surgical Nursing III

Focuses on theory and clinical practice in giving safe and effective care to adult clients. Symptoms, treatments and care of disorders of the neurological, genitourinary, sensory and reproductive systems is provided. Clinical assignments are correlated to units of study when possible. The student is responsible for more complex nursing care procedures and medication administration with minimal faculty guidance.

Mental Health

Includes discussion of different types of mental illness with the appropriate treatment and nursing interventions for each. The history of mental health nursing as well as current trends and therapies also are explored. Medications used in treatments as well as current therapy trends are also explored during this course. Mental health issues and the effects on the elderly are also explored as well as discussion related to the LGBTQ+ community.

Leadership

Places emphasis on entry into the workplace. Preparation for interviewing, refining of communication skills, ethics and nursing law, resume writing, application and resignation letters are taught. Focus is on the role of the LPN, designation, prioritization, and workplace diversity.

STUDENT STUDY TIME POLICY

Students enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program are expected to complete unsupervised study at home in order to prepare for academic success in the program. Two hours of study for each hour of class theory is advised.

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

Curriculum

The Practical Nursing Program has a four-Level curriculum:

Student/Faculty Ratio	15/1
Number of Program Hours	1504 (801-theory; 703-clinical)

Nursing Level I

Anatomy & Physiology		Theory Hours	265
Theory Hours	105	Clinical Hours	<u>87</u>
		Total Hours	352
Fundamentals of Nursing			
Theory Hours	120		
Clinical Hours	87		
Nutrition (online)			
Theory Hours	40		

Nursing Level II

Medical-Surgical Nursing I		Theory Hours	203
Theory Hours	103	Clinical Hours	<u>189</u>
Clinical Hours	147	Total Hours	392
Maternal Child Health			
Theory Hours	100		
Clinical Hours	42		

Nursing Level III

Medical-Surgical Nursing II		Theory Hours	165
Theory Hours	91	Clinical Hours	<u>203</u>
Clinical Hours	175	Total Hours	368
Pediatrics			
Theory Hours	74		
Clinical Hours	28		

Nursing Level IV

Medical-Surgical III		Theory Hours	168
Theory Hours	83	Clinical Hours	<u>224</u>
Clinical Hours	224	Total Hours	392
Mental Health			
Theory Hours	65		
Leadership			
Theory Hours	20		