**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**

The course is the study of the structure and function of the human body and the mechanisms for maintaining homeostasis within it. The course examines major parts of the body and how they work independently as well as together. The student will be able to apply the information provided by this course to analyze and explain new situations involving the human body in future courses.

**Fundamentals of Nursing**

This course is designed to prepare the beginning practical nursing student with the basic fundamental concepts of nursing. Emphasis will always be placed on client centered care, client confidentiality, safety and hygiene. The student nurse will begin to understand the theory behind many common nursing skills and interventions and the course will progress from simpler to more complex skills. Upon completion of this course the student will be familiar with and able to complete many skill interventions with instructor supervision at the clinical sites. Emphasis will be placed on treating clients as unique individuals and the student nurse will develop an understanding of providing multicultural holistic care to all clients. This information will be provided to the student using the nursing process as a logical systematic method of problem solving. The student will begin to recognize how the practical nurse functions as a member of the health care team. The student will investigate the scope of practice of the practical nurse, as well as recognize practice limitations and prohibited practice.

**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**

**Care of the Older Adult**

This course prepares the student with the knowledge of basic client needs and provides opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills required to administer nursing care to older adults in a variety of environments. The nursing process provides the basic organizational framework for determining the client’s needs and providing the appropriate nursing care. In addition to health promotion and maintenance and provision of a safe effective care environment, the course content includes the discussion of alterations in health, both physical and psychosocial health, of the older adult.

**Pharmacology**

This course is an introduction to pharmacology in the practice of nursing that incorporates the legal, cultural, psychological, professional, and ethical aspects of medication administration to clients across the lifespan. Specific content will include, but may not be limited to, drug calculations, classifications, dosages, legal aspects of administration and preparation, uses, actions, and side effects of selected drugs in each classification. The course is designed to educate the student on Practical Nursing law and regulations regarding medication administration and intravenous therapy.

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: LEVEL III**

**Medical/Surgical I**

This course is the first of two medical surgical nursing courses in the practical nurse program. This course utilizes the application of the nursing process to care for adults experiencing medical-surgical conditions in the health care illness continuum. This course covers physiology and basic pathophysiology, causes of illness, care of the surgical client and disorders of the respiratory, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems. The role of the Practical Nurse in preventative health measures, health promotion, and referral to community health resources, patient/family education, therapeutic and rehabilitative aspects will be presented. The nursing process provides the basic organizational framework for determining the client's needs and providing the appropriate nursing care.

**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 IV**

**Medical-Surgical Nursing II**

This course, as the second medical/surgical course, will provide the nursing student with an understanding of select urinary alterations, neurological impairments, immune, reproductive and malignant disorders as well as others. The nursing process provides the basic organizational framework for determining the client's needs and providing the appropriate nursing care.

**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.

**Professional Development & Leadership**

To make the transition from student to graduate easier and more realistic. Information related to obtaining entry level LPN employment is included: Letters of application, resumes, and job interviews. The importance of legal issues, nursing and continuing growth as a nurse is emphasized. The student will be introduced to specific Board regulations related to Practical Nursing practice including 21.145-Functions of the LPN as well as Practical Nursing Law.