

Frequently Asked Questions

What does LPN stand for?

- Licensed Practical Nurse, it is often just called Practical Nurse or PN. In other states it is also sometimes referred to as Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN).

How long is the PN Program? Are the semesters consecutive?

- Yes, the PN program is for 4 consecutive semesters. Almost all will start in either Fall or Spring.
 - If you start in Fall → Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall
 - If you start in Spring → Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring
 - **Pharmacology will never be taught over the summer.*

What days of the week are classes offered?

- In Spring and Fall – classes are Monday through Friday → 8am-3pm
- In Summer – classes are Monday through Thursday → 9-10 hour days
- Clinical days vary with time, days of the week, location, and duration; sometimes starting as early as 5:30 am. Your college location will let you know prior to starting clinical which sites you will use and what is your arrival time, departure time, and how long your lunch break will be.
 - Clinicals start first semester with long-term care (nursing home). For the subsequent semesters, clinicals may be at rehabs, hospitals, mental health locations, nursing homes, and various other places.

Where are the clinical sites that you use?

- Your college location will let you know prior to starting clinical which sites you will use and what is your arrival time, departure time, and how long your lunch break will be.
- Clinicals start first semester with long-term care (nursing home). For the subsequent semesters, clinicals may be at rehabs, hospitals, mental health locations, nursing homes, and various other places.
- Due to regulatory requirements and specialty areas, you may have some extensive travel to attend some clinical experience as much advanced notice will be given as possible.

If I can't pass the Reading or Math Accuplacer with a high enough score, what can I do?

- **Reading:** Email Mrs. Johnson and express interest in the self-paced reading program. There is no cost for this. carolynjohnson@northshorecollege.edu.
- **Math:** enroll in the Pre-Nursing course. This course covers medical math, medical terminology (and you will not need to take Med-Term your Freshman semester) and some study skills.
 - You will learn medical math in this course and successful completion of the Pre-Nursing course allows you to be able to enter the nursing program (if all other requirements are met).
- Utilize Northshore's Library to study PrepSTEP, or Louisiana Public Libraries have this resource as well
 - If you are a current Northshore student. Visit this website. Create a log in. <https://www.learningexpresshub.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/prepstepacademic/libraryhome>
 - If you are not a current student of Northshore:
 - You can go to our physical library on campus to get a guest log-in to access PrepSTEP
 - The State Library of Louisiana provides access to HomeworkLA (<http://homeworkla.org/>) to the entire state with a Library card. This website has some test preparation material as well and can be accessed at home
 - Click <http://homeworkla.org/>
 - Then Click LOUISIANA LIBRARYCONNECTION at top of page
 - Then under "Learning Express Library" click on College Students
 - Click on Prepare for College Placement Exams
 - Here are the Accuplacer prepSTEP resources

Are the classes virtual or on campus?

- Classes are on campus. **You are expected to attend every day and to be on time to class and clinical.**
- The governing body for LPN's is the LSBPNE <https://www.lsbpne.com/> and they govern the number of hours that students need for each course. There is no wiggle room with the minimum hours required. This includes illnesses, doctors' appointments, children's illness, and deaths in the family. You need to be in class every day. Plan your doctor appointments in advance to be at after class or on the weekends.
- In the event there is severe weather predicted, campuses may close and class may be virtual. Especially if the weather ends up being mild then we will probably meet virtually. Always be prepared to meet on Zoom or Teams on school closures.
- The only class that is virtual is Medical Terminology. ~~If you can take this in the intro course (Pre-Nursing), you will not have to take it during your Freshman semester with your full course load.~~ You can take our Intro to Nursing class (PNUR 1001) to substitute the Medical Terminology course (with a B or better).

Do you have night classes?

- Yes. Currently, night classes are offered only in Hammond. Since the course runs 4 semesters, the start dates are Fall 2021. After that it will be Spring 2023.

Are my pre-requisites from another college transferrable for credit in Nursing?

- It really depends on what pre-requisites you have earned.
 - If you have nursing level courses, they may be transferrable. We will know once we look at your transcripts.
 - If you have earned credit in core courses (English, Math, Biology, etc.) then instead of applying for a Technical Diploma, consider looking into an Associate of Applied Sciences Degree. Make sure to discuss this option with Student Services.

Are you licensed at the completion of the program?

- No. You will learn everything you need to take the National Council Licensure Examination - PN (NCLEX-PN). This is the test that all nurses in all states must take. Successful completion of the NCLEX allows you to be a LPN and practice as a nurse.
- The closer you take your NCLEX to your graduation date the more current your educational experience is. This give you more potential to successfully pass your NCLEX.
- More info:
 - <https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>
 - https://www.ncsbn.org/20_NCLEXinfo_factsheet.pdf

How much does it cost to go to school at NTCC?

This will vary from semester to semester. Please use the link: <https://www.northshorecollege.edu/financial-aid/paying-for-college> and click on the upcoming semester.

To know the number of hours in your curriculum, see Sample Curriculum below. This is current as of Fall 2021.

- If you start in Fall → Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall
- If you start in Spring → Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring

Do you offer CNA classes?

- Yes, it is offered at the by Workforce at various campuses. The person to email about workforce availability is Ms. LaBorde at bridgetlaborde@northshorecollege.edu. These courses are offered intermittently year round.

How to a request to Re-enter the PN Program?

- If a student does not successfully complete the course of studies or must drop because of excessive absences, the student may apply for re-entry with the next class, if space permits, provided that the readmission is within one year from the date of withdrawal. **A student who is dismissed for violations of the Code of Conduct will not be eligible for re-entry.** A student who has failed a course will not be given priority placement over a new student.
- The student must request a meeting with the Re-Entry Committee by emailing the request to pnreentry@northshorecollege.edu. The Re-Entry Committee will meet with the student in person, and the majority vote will determine if the student is re-admitted into the program. Placement is not automatic or guaranteed.

- If the number of students wishing to re-enter exceeds the number of available slots in any established cohort, students will be admitted based on established current admission criteria (to include but not limited to college admission scores, attendance, GPA, timely submission of readmission documents. Similar to initial admission, re-entry students will also be ranked for readmission based on criteria and spots available.
- If a student has two unsuccessful attempts after initial entry into the PN Program the student is not eligible for re-entry at current program level and must restart the program and begin in the first semester, retaking all classes. If student is again unsuccessful at any point, after restarting the program for a second time, the student may apply to start again after a two-year waiting period.
- Students who are unable to complete the PN Program with a 80% or better but achieve a minimum of 70% in the Freshmen level courses may be awarded a Certificate of Technical Completion (CTC) in Nursing Assistant, if they satisfactorily complete and can demonstrate competencies in Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) nurse assistant skills following successful completion of designated Nursing courses and may apply to LDH to sit for the state certification exam (costs of which is paid by student).

NORTHSHORE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sample Curriculum for Practical Nursing

Spring Semester Start

Course No.	Course Name	Clock Hours (Theory)	Clock hours (Clinical/Lab)	Credit Hours
Spring Semester				
HNUR 2110	PN Foundations and Perspectives	120		6
HNUR 2111	PN Foundations Lab w/ Geriatric Clinical		140	4
HMDT 1170	Medical Terminology (Online)	15		1
HNUR 2000	Anatomy & Physiology w/ Nutrition for Practical Nurses	100		4
Summer Semester				
HNUR 2210	Practical Nursing I (MSI & MH)	120		6
HNUR 2211	Practical Nursing I Clinical		205	4
Fall Semester				
HNUR 2310	Practical Nursing II (MSII & OB)	120		6
HNUR 2311	Practical Nursing II Clinical		205	4
HNUR 2500	Pharmacology and IV Therapy for PN	75	30	3
Spring Semester				
HNUR 2410	Practical Nursing III (MSIII & Peds)	120		6
HNUR 2411	Practical Nursing III Clinical		205	4
HNUR 2813	PN Leadership & Management	30	30	2
Required Elective:				
HNUR 2991	Special Projects I	30		1