

Louisiana Technical College (LTC)
Practical Nursing (PN) Program Outline/Admission standards
Effective August 2008

The Practical Nursing program is designed to prepare the student to meet the licensure requirements for Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), as established by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSBPNE). The program progresses from simple to complex and consists of classroom instruction, lab practicum and supervised clinical activities in accredited hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care agencies.

Students should note that some courses have prerequisites, which must be completed before enrolling into upper level courses and continuing in the program. Students must demonstrate basic computer skills prior to advancement into the acute care clinical component of the program. Practical Nursing Program Coordinators or their designees may assess a student's basic computer skills by administering a competency exam or having the student successfully complete CPTR 1000 or a comparable computer course.

Articulated courses are determined at the discretion of the Practical Nurse Program Coordinator and based upon individual evaluation as described in the 2005 Louisiana Nursing Education Articulation Model.

Each course in the PN program must be completed with a minimum score of 80%. Upon graduation, the student is awarded a diploma and is eligible to apply for the National Council of State Boards Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

This is a **limited enrollment program**. Students must be admitted to the program to enroll in any of the PN courses. For **direct admission**, *students must meet or exceed entrance test scores as indicated in table below*.

Type of test	Mathematics	Reading	Language	Science
ACT (sub score)	18-36	20-36	18-36	20
COMPASS	48-100	85-100	68-100	N/A
ASSET	42-55	44-55	44-55	N/A
TEAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	55 or ↑

Students scoring below the scores noted above will be required to complete applicable developmental courses or pre-requisite allied health courses prior to acceptance into the PN program – see table below.

	AHMA 1000	AHRE1000	AHEN 1000	AHSC 1000
Type of test	Mathematics	Reading	Language	Science
ACT	16-17	19	17	↓ 20
COMPASS	44-47	82-84	60-67	N/A
ASSET	41	42-43	42-43	N/A
TEAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	↓ 55

NOTE: students will NOT be placed in the Allied Health courses without having met the scores as noted above. Students with **lower scores MUST enroll in the appropriate developmental education course.**

1. The COMPASS test will be the initial assessment tool used to place the student in the correct level Allied Health preparation course. A campus/regional level test administrator will administer the COMPASS/Placement test. **Placement in the AH 1000 level courses will be based on the ranges listed above.**
2. PN students may retake the COMPASS with a minimum **2 week waiting period** between each retest
 - a. Can **retest two times only** (total of 3 attempts to meet scores)
 - b. After 3rd attempt, must enroll in Developmental Education or Allied Health courses as applicable

3. Students whose **scores exceed the ranges listed above are exempted** from the specific allied health course(s). Students may also be exempted from the course(s) if they present **official college transcripts** indicating successful completion of a **comparable college level course – NOT a developmental course**. *Comparable courses include but are not limited to: College Algebra; Statistics; Business Math; English Composition; English Literature; Comparative Writing; Biology; Physical Science; Anatomy & Physiology; Chemistry; Microbiology; Physics, etc.* Courses should have been completed within the last 4 years and a *minimum grade of C* received. Contact Statewide Coordinator for questions.
4. **AHSC 1000 - A placement exam for the Science course is available in EDUTEST**. Students are only eligible for the placement exam PRIOR to the start of the semester. Students must score 70% or higher on the AHSC Placement exam. Students may take the placement exam **one time only** and must pay applicable LTC fees (\$15) for the exam. Students should be given the *course syllabus for AHSC 1000 as a reference/study guide*.
5. COMPASS/Placement re-testing is **not required** after a student **successfully** completes required Allied Health preparation PWLN coursework, and the Mid-Point and Final exams. An overall grade of **C** is mandated. The completion of the aforementioned is the final indication that the student has satisfied the competencies on the Allied Health preparation syllabi. **Remember – students MUST have met the scores on the placement exam as indicated in number 1 above.**
6. Practical Nursing students required to take a **developmental education (Dev Ed) course MUST retest** on the COMPASS/ASSET/ACT after completing the Dev Ed course(s) regardless of the grade received in the course! This is a requirement of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners and **cannot** be bypassed.

Admission Requirements: Students must apply to the campus/program of their choice and meet the minimum admission standards, including:

- Ability to obtain CPR for Healthcare Providers certification **prior** to first clinical course – or as directed by program coordinator
- Official birth certificate
- Official HS or GED transcript
- Proof of current immunizations
- History and Physical exam
- TB skin test or Chest x-ray
- Fingerprints and \$26.00 money order payable to Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
- \$50.00 money order payable to Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
- Additional criminal background check required for clinical courses – check with the campus for specific information
- Drug screening – check with the campus for specific information
- Applicants must **NOT** be currently serving under any court-imposed order of supervised probation, work release, school release, or parole in conjunction with any felony conviction(s) or plea agreement.
- As documented by a physician on the history & physical exam document, students must demonstrate ability to meet following technical/performance standards (related to ADA compliance) while receiving the instruction as outlined in each course syllabus:
 - a) Read and communicate orally and in writing using the English language.
 - b) Hear with or without auditory aids to understand normal speaking voice without viewing the speakers face.
 - c) Visually, with or without corrective lenses, observe changes in client's condition and actively participate in learning process.
 - d) Utilize stamina, strength and psychomotor coordination necessary to perform routine practical nursing procedures at floor or bed level.
 - e) Demonstrate use of gross and fine motor skills necessary to provide independent, safe and effective practical nursing care.
 - f) Solve problems and apply critical thinking skills while providing safe and efficient client care.
 - g) Interact with individuals/families/groups from various socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.
 - h) Adapt and function in a multi stressor environment while adhering to legal/ethical guidelines of the school, Louisiana Practical Nurse (PN) Practice Act and clinical agencies.