

PRACTICAL NURSING

The Licensed Practical Nurse provides specific services to persons in a variety of settings under the direct supervision of a licensed physician, dentist, or registered nurse as determined by the Mississippi Nursing Practice Law (Nurse Practice Act).

The mission of the Practical Nursing Program is to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the health care needs of persons in a variety of settings who work cooperatively and safely as a member of the health care team. Clinical experience is designed to provide practice in structured settings that focus on basic therapeutic care, rehabilitation of the ill and injured, and prevention of illness and injury. Licensed Practical Nurses are educated to be responsible members of the health care team by performing basic therapeutic, rehabilitative, and preventive care.

The Practical Nursing Program consists of a three-semester certificate program.

Affiliating hospitals are Greenwood Leflore Hospital in Greenwood, Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville, Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield, and South Sunflower County Hospital in Indianola. Other area nursing homes and clinical agencies are also utilized.

The MDCC Practical Nursing Program is accredited by the State of Mississippi Department of Education through the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Graduates of the program are awarded a certificate and are eligible to apply to the Mississippi Board of Nursing to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

Legal Limitations for Licensure as a Practical Nurse:

Students who fail to conform to the Nursing Department Code of Ethics may be placed on probation, suspended, or dismissed from the program. All applicants should be advised that according to the Mississippi Nursing Practice Laws and Rules and Regulations an individual's application to write the licensing exam may be refused if the applicant has been convicted of a criminal offense under any provision of Title 97 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

According to Mississippi State Law, an individual may not be eligible for employment in a health care agency if the person has ever been convicted of a felony, or plead guilty to, or plead nolo contendere to a felony of possession or sale of drugs, murder, manslaughter, armed robbery, rape, sexual battery, sex offense listed in Section 45-33-23 (f), child abuse, arson, grand larceny, burglary, gratification of lust or aggravated assault, of felonious abuse and/or battery of a vulnerable adult.

Graduates must apply to the Mississippi Board of Nursing for licensure to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must:

- meet general admission requirements for technical students.
- be a high school graduate or have a satisfactory GED score.
- have a minimum ACT score of 16 (12 if taken before October 28, 1989)
- submit a signed, notarized Healthcare Criminal History Background Affidavit.
- take the entrance test at the applicant's own expense. The exam may be taken only once a year.

PROCEDURE:

Applicants must have the following documents on file in the Health Sciences office by April 1 to be considered for admission to the Practical Nursing Program:

- MDCC application for admission or readmission
- MDCC application to the Practical Nursing Program (Health Science Packet)
- An official high school transcript from an approved high school or GED equivalency score
- An official college transcript, if college work has been completed
- ACT score
- Signed, notarized Healthcare Criminal History Background Affidavit
- Entrance test score
- One academic and one personal reference form

Students are encouraged to submit all parts of the application well in advance of the deadline. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed for admission.**

SELECTION:

No applicant will be considered unless the minimum admission requirements are met. Requirements are based on ACT scores, GPA scores entrance test, health care work experience, performance on core courses, and references submitted in a timely manner. All applicants are considered on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. The number of applicants accepted is limited due to the nature of the program. Applicants will be notified by letter of their acceptance or non-acceptance to the program. The acceptance letter will include specific instructions regarding all requirements that must be completed prior to August admission. These requirements are listed below:

- completion of Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO 2513/2511) and Anatomy & Physiology II (BIO 2523/2521) with a grade of "C" or better within the last 5 years to be exempt from Body Structure and Function (PNV 1213)
- satisfactory completion of First Aid CPR (HPR 2211) taught during the summer
- satisfactory completion of MATH 1102 during the summer based on entrance test results.
- satisfactory background check (see Policy on Admission to Health Science Program)
- health evaluation form completed by a physician or nurse practitioner

- proof of Hepatitis-B vaccination, MMR vaccination and Mantoux TB skin test
- acceptable pre-admission drug screen

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students who are accepted into the program must:

- attend a Health Science orientation session.
- be aware that, in addition to the regular college fees, Practical Nursing students will incur expenses for such items as uniforms, books, supplies, liability insurance, background check, Hepatitis B vaccination series, national and state certification examination fees, graduation fees, and review seminars.
- be responsible for their own transportation to the college campus and clinical agencies.

PROGRESSION:

A Practical Nursing student must maintain a minimum average grade of “80%” in each PN course theory component and PNV 1436, PNV 1622, and PNV 1642, as well as satisfactory status in the clinical component in theory classes that include clinical.

READMISSION:

Students seeking readmission to the program or transfer credit from another PN program are considered on an individual basis according to health sciences readmission or transfer policies.

Students who are readmitted and who have been out of the program for more than 15 months are not eligible to challenge courses previously taken and must repeat ALL vocational coursework for completion of the Practical Nursing Program.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

Mississippi Delta Community College complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.” The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Lynda Steele, Vice President of Administrative Services, Stauffer-Wood Administration Building, P. O. Box 668, Moorhead, MS 38761, 662-246-6558. The students’ contact is: The Center of Learning at 662-246-6251.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Performance Standards for Admission and Progression

The following performance standards provide descriptions of basic cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor requirements for successful practical nursing program completion. Applicants and students who cannot meet one or more of the standards will be considered on an individual basis in terms of whether reasonable modification accommodation can be made. Reasonable accommodations will be examined in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as the Performance Standards for Admission and Progression.

In order to successfully complete the associate degree nursing program, an applicant/student must be able to do the following:

1. **Demonstrate critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment.**

Examples

- prioritize information and identify cause-effect relationships in the clinical setting
- analyze assessment findings and use findings to plan and implement care
- evaluate plan of care and make revisions as appropriate
- make decisions using logic, creativity and reasoning to make sound clinical judgments based on standards of nursing care
- demonstrate arithmetic ability to correctly compute dosages, tell time, and use measuring tools

2. **Display interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups in a variety of settings in the community.**

Examples

- respect differences among clients and exhibit an attitude accepting of clients as individuals
- establish rapport in order to communicate effectively with clients, families, significant others, and health team members
- work effectively in small groups as a team member and a team leader
- recognize crises and institute appropriate interventions to help resolve adverse situations

3. **Demonstrate appropriate verbal and written communication skills.**

Examples

- speak English coherently to clients, families, and other staff members
- clearly explain treatment procedures and initiate health teaching for clients, families, or groups based on assessed needs, available resources, age, lifestyle, and cultural considerations
- provide clear, understandable written client documentation based upon proper use of the English language
- convey critical information to other caregivers through graphic, print, and/or electronic media in an accurate, timely, and comprehensible manner

4. **Exhibit physical ability sufficient to assist clients to meet health care needs in a variety of settings, including moving from room-to-room, to maneuver in small spaces, and to negotiate stairwells when necessary.**

Examples

- physical mobility and strength sufficient to propel wheelchairs, stretchers, etc. through doorways and close fitting areas alone or with assistance
- stand, walk up to 75% of 6 to 12 hour shifts
- stoop, bend, squat, reach overhead as required to reach equipment and provide nursing care
- lift a minimum of 20 pounds of weight

- transfer/position up to 300 pounds with assistance while lifting, positioning, and transferring clients
- provide for activities of daily living (bed bath, oral hygiene, dressing, etc.)
- perform CPR satisfactorily and respond quickly in an emergency situation

5. **Demonstrate gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.**

Examples

- demonstrate physical dexterity and coordination in delivery of care, treatment, and medications
- hold skin taut with one hand while inserting needle in skin or vein with other hand and perform other procedures requiring the use of 2 hands
- pick up, grasp, and effectively manipulate small objects such as dials, syringes, switches
- calibrate and use equipment
- maintain sterile technique when performing sterile procedures

6. **Display auditory, visual, and tactile ability sufficient to safely assess and care for clients.**

Examples

- hear monitors, alarms, emergency signals, lung/heart sounds, bowel sounds, and cries for help, telephone, intercom interactions, and public address systems (codes)
- perceive and receive verbal communications from clients, families, and health team members
- read written words and information on paper and computer screens, small print, gauges, measuring cups, syringes, and other equipment
- discriminate colors; changes in color, size and continuity of body parts
- discriminate alterations in normal body activities such as breathing patterns and level of consciousness
- observe hazards in environment (water spills, safety rails, restraints) and harmful situations
- perform physical assessment: palpate pulses, feel for heat or cold, tap body surfaces

Practical Nursing

REQUIRED COURSES:	Prev. Taken	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
PNV 1213 Body Structure & Function *		PNV 1213		
PNV 1427 Fundamentals of Nursing		PNV 1427		
PNV 1436 Fundamentals Lab/Clinical		PNV 1436		
PNV 1614 Med/Surg Nursing			PNV 1614	
PNV 1622 Med Surg Clinical			PNV 1622	
PNV 1634 Alterations in Adult Health			PNV 1634	
PNV 1642 Alterations Clinical			PNV 1642	
PNV 1524 IV Therapy Concepts			PNV 1524	
PNV 1715 Maternal/Child				PNV 1715
PNV 1914 Nursing Transition				PNV 1914
PNV 1813 Mental Health Concepts				PNV 1813
APPROVED ELECTIVES: (Optional)				
NUR 1321Prenursing Seminar				
BIO 2513 Anatomy & Physiology I				
BIO 2511 A & P I Lab				
BIO 2523 Anatomy & Physiology II				
BIO 2521 A & P II Lab				
FCS 1253 Nutrition				
PSY 1513 General Psychology				
EPY 2533 Human Growth & Develop				
SPT 1113 Public Speaking I				
SOC 2113 Intro to Sociology				
ENG 1113 English Composition I				
ENG 1123 English Composition II				
CSC 1123 Computer Applications I				
CSC 1133 Computer Applications II				
MAT 1313 College Algebra				
Total Hours:		16	16	12
Advisor				
Initials:				
Date:				

*Body Structure & Function is taught the summer before entrance for those students who have not completed BIO 2513/2511) and BIO 2523/2521 with a "C" or better within the last 5 years prior to admission into the program.

Students should consult the catalog of the university to which they plan to transfer to specific degree requirements.

Students that complete the program requirements, 3 semesters as identified by the MS Dept. of Education will be eligible to apply for LPN licensure. A certificate of completion is issued by MDCC.