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## PRE-NURSING AND PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the Practical Nursing (PN) Program?

The PN Program is a Certificate Program designed to prepare the student for a successful nursing career and employment in the healthcare field, facilitate personal growth experience, and provide Registered Nurse program transfer opportunities.

### 2. What are the requirements for admission into the PN Program, and who is responsible for paying for the cost, if any?

See attached **MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS DECLARATION** form at the end of this document.

### 3. Is the PN Program approved?

Yes. The Pennsylvania State Board approves the program of Nursing.

### 4. Will criminal history prevent acceptance into the program?

It depends on the specific details of the criminal history. One misdemeanor may not preclude acceptance into the program while more than one and/or a felony conviction usually does. To participate in clinical experiences, a "no record" status must be reported on child abuse background checks; therefore, a history of child abuse precludes acceptance into the program.

If there is an "arrest" or "charge" listed on your criminal background check that does not have the "disposition," you will be required to provide official documents such as criminal background check from that state.

The Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing requires that the program inform applicants that the State Board of Nursing:

- **may deny a license or the privilege of sitting for licensing examination** to an applicant who has been convicted\* of a felonious act prohibited by the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64) known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device,

and Cosmetic Act," or convicted of a felony related to a controlled substance in a court of law of the United States or any other state, territory or country unless:

- **may refuse a license in any case where the board finds the applicant:**
  - (1) Is guilty of gross immorality;
  - (2) Is unfit or incompetent because of negligence, habits, or other causes;
  - (3) Has been convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or been dishonorably discharged or discharged under circumstances amounting to a dishonorable discharge from the military;
  - (4) Is addicted to alcohol or is addicted to hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination, or if he or she is judged to be mentally incompetent.

You will be asked these following questions upon acceptance and on the state licensure application:

- (1)** Have you ever been convicted\* of any crime, felony or misdemeanor, and/or do you currently have any criminal charges pending and unresolved in any court?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                                  \_\_\_\_\_ No
  
- (2)** Have you ever been convicted\* of any crime associated with alcohol or drugs in any court?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                                  \_\_\_\_\_ No

\*The term "convicted" includes a judgment, found guilty by a judge or jury, pleaded guilty or nolo contendere, received probation without verdict, disposition instead of a trial, or Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition.

If the answer is yes to either one of the above questions, you may have difficulty obtaining a license in Pennsylvania.

Deceit in the admission process is a cause for dismissal from the program.

### **5. Are there any Pre-Requisites?**

Yes; to qualify for admission into the Practical Nursing program, students must complete and achieve a C or higher grade for (5) credits of Anatomy and Physiology (or the equivalent of Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II), which can be completed at P.I.T. or transferred from a Middle States Accredited Institution. Students must also complete the AHT180 TEAS SmartPrep course with a C or higher.

### **6. How many credit hours is the program, and how long will it take to complete the program? Are the credits transferable to another school or college?**

The curriculum is comprised of 50 nursing credits. The curriculum is divided into four terms of instruction for a total of 1500 hours. The full-time day program is a twelve (12)

month program; the possibility of evening/weekend clinical rotations exists. Credits earned are not necessarily transferable to another school or college.

There are many opportunities for Licensed Practical Nurses to move up the educational ladder to becoming a Registered Nurse. Both associate degree and bachelor degree programs are available. Many even offer credit for your practical nursing education.

### **7. What are the roles and responsibilities of a licensed practical nurse?**

Nursing is an art and science dedicated to meeting the healthcare needs of individuals of all ages and communities. Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) provide healthcare in various settings such as long-term care facilities, hospitals, physician's offices, homes, rehabilitation facilities, and clinics. LPNs work under the supervision of a licensed professional (registered) nurse, a licensed physician, or a licensed dentist.

The nursing actions performed by LPNs are extensive. The list includes providing fundamental care, collecting client information and data, performing routine monitoring, administering medications, enteral feedings, and intravenous therapy, and performing wound care, dressing changes, and respiratory treatments. LPNs provide health teaching, monitor treatments' effectiveness, and document data, actions, and responses. LPNs are integral members of the healthcare team working together to assist the individual or family in the prevention of illness, restoration of health or adaptation to illness, and achievement of comfort.

### **8. Is there tutoring available?**

P.I.T. is organized for student success. There are opportunities for peer, group, and private tutoring in our Student Resource Center, Student Innovation Center. Nursing instructors will be available for academic advising, tutoring, guidance, and support of nursing students.

### **9. What types of student services are available on campus?**

Student Services provides academic support and career and transfer counseling and referral to social and community services. Other student services available include a cafeteria, student lounge, and student lockers. P. I. T. van service between P.I.T. and SEPTA's 101 Trolley Station at Providence Road and State Road is available.

### **10. Will I receive a license immediately upon completion of the PN program?**

No. Graduation from the PN program qualifies you to apply for a license and apply to take the NCLEX-PN® (National Council of Licensure Examination-Practical Nursing). You must apply to the State Board of Nursing and register for the examination. The

State Board of Nursing determines if you are eligible to take the examination. When you pass NCLEX-PN®, you will be issued a license.

**11. What sites are used for a clinical learning experience? Is transportation provided to and from the clinical sites?**

Clinical sites are Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Fair Acres Geriatric Center, Wesley Enhanced Living, Prospect Park Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, GoldenLiving Center – Rosemont, and St. Edmond’s Home for Children. Clinical also occurs on campus in the Simulation lab and online with Virtual Clinical assignments. Negotiations for additional sites for clinical learning experiences are ongoing. The possibility of evening/weekend clinical rotations exists. Clinical sites are not limited to Delaware County, and maybe out of state.

Students are responsible for their own transportation. The nursing faculty decide clinical site placement. Requests for clinical site placement with peers or at a specific agency will not be honored.

**12. What type of patient/patients do student nurses care for during clinical learning experiences?**

The Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing requires that clinical learning experiences provide opportunities for students to care for men, women, and children in various age groups. Therefore, each student will be assigned to (and expected to) care for men, women, and children with a variety of health problems. Students are not permitted to refuse a patient care assignment.

**13. What resources are available to help fund my nursing education?**

Financial aid is available for those students who qualify through federal, state, institutional, and special programs. Student loans are available. Some employers offer tuition forgiveness (repay outstanding loans for education) programs in exchange for employment. There are also professional and community organizations that offer scholarships to nursing students. For further information on federal, state, or college aid, go to [www.fasfa.gov](http://www.fasfa.gov). P. I. T. Student, Financial Aid Services Office, is available to assist students in applying for financial aid.

**PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM—MINIMUM ADMISSION  
REQUIREMENTS DECLARATION**

**Eligibility Requirement:**

- **Official** high school transcript or GED with scores

- \* **Please note:** GED or Diploma from a state or jurisdiction other than PA requires a Certificate of Preliminary Education (CPE) from PA DOE.
- At least 17 years of age – provide documentation.
- U. S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen – provide documentation

### Pre-requisite Requirements

- Must complete (5) credits of Anatomy and Physiology (or the equivalent of Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II) and achieve a grade of C or better from a Middle States Accredited institution
- AHT180 TEAS Smartprep course C grade or higher

### Admission requirements:

- Pennsylvania Institute of Technology College Enrollment Application
- Official high school transcript, GED transcript, or PA DOE CPE
- Official college transcripts, if applicable.
- Completion of a PA Criminal background check
  - A non-resident of Pennsylvania must also submit a Criminal Record check from the state in which he/she resides.
- Completion of a PA Child Abuse background check
  - A non-resident of Pennsylvania must also submit a Child Abuse Record check from the state in which he/she resides.
- FBI Background Check is required
  - Depending on the results, additional background checks may be required.
- Completion of satisfactory drug screening
- A physical exam by a health care provider
  - **Please note:** form MUST be signed and dated by the provider.
- Mumps, rubella, rubeola, and varicella titers
- Booster vaccination(s) of mumps, rubella, rubeola, and/or varicella if titer non-reactive/non-immune with a repeat titer to verify immunity
- Tetanus-diphtheria booster vaccination within the last 10 years
- Tuberculosis screening 2 step OR Quantiferon blood test: negative results
  - **Please note:** if positive results must provide Chest X-ray results done within the last five years.
- Hepatitis B vaccination series of three (3) doses completed OR in progress.
- A seasonal flu vaccine is required.
- Current Certification in Adult, Infant and Child Healthcare Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (American Heart Association recommended)
- Health insurance is strongly recommended.
- No outstanding fees owed to the college

- I understand all submitted documents and completed forms become the property of the College and are non-returnable.
- I understand deceit in the application procedure is a cause for dismissal from the program.
- I understand I must provide an **official** high school transcript, GED transcript, or PA Department of Education (DOE) Certificate of Preliminary Education (CPE).
- I understand a student will not be admitted to the program with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance.
- I understand a student will not be admitted with a disqualifying result in the drug screening.
- I understand a student accepted into the program must submit a health examination form completed by a healthcare provider with immunization history, including verification through blood work. I understand a student will not be admitted with a disqualifying result.

1. I understand in circumstances of student illness, injury, or other health limitations. If the clinical agency does not accept me, it may not be accepted into the program.
  2. I understand that I should give careful consideration to the program's mental and physical demands before beginning the program.
- I understand I must provide documentation of current Adult, Child, and Infant CPR (Healthcare Provider) certification.
  - **I understand failure to provide documents or failure to meet deadlines is ground for rescinding admission or dismissal from the program.**
  - I, the undersigned:
    - I have read and understand the Practical Nursing Program **Admission Requirements**.
    - I understand that I am responsible for doing or obtaining and paying for the cost of requirements' designated to the candidate.
    - I understand that meeting the requirements is not a guarantee of admission into the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date