

NURSING DIVISION

Mission Statement: *We are committed to evidence-based learning which promotes excellence in nursing and maximum development of student potential within an environment of caring.*

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Description of Programs

The Nursing Division offers a certificate and an associate degree program designed to prepare students for employment in the health care field, as well as an opportunity for continuing advancement. The **certificate** is a 12-month full-time or 24-month part-time program that, when completed, enables the individual to apply for licensure and to write the National Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (LPN). The **Associate of Science (A.S.) degree** can be completed in two years of full-time study or part-time over a longer time frame. The curriculum consists of study in arts, social and biological sciences, humanities and nursing. Completion of the A. S. Degree allows the individual to apply for licensure and to write the National Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (RN). In addi-

tion, an introductory course of study in **Surgical Technology** is available. This course is designed for entry level work force training, and does not lead to national certification. Information and comparison of these programs are available from the Division Office.

It is important to note that completion of the certificate or degree program in nursing does not guarantee a graduate the right to take the national exam. The State Board of Nursing makes the decision regarding eligibility to apply for licensure and testing. *On the State Board of Nursing Application, applicant is asked if they have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony. The application process for licensure in Arkansas includes criminal background checks, and the AR State Board of Nursing is required by law [AR 17-87-309] to deny licensure for certain offenses.*

Nursing coursework for both programs consists of classroom, campus laboratory, and clinical experiences. Clinical experiences begin early in the program of study and take place in hospitals, long-term care facilities and healthcare agencies in Hot Springs and the surrounding area. Clinical experiences may be morning, day or evening hours. The clinical rotation is planned to provide varied experiences in the health care field.

The Nursing Programs are approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. The Associate degree program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). NLNAC may be contacted at 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10014, phone 1-800-669-1657 or www.nlnac.org.

Cost of the Nursing Program

Cost of the nursing courses includes traditional expenses of tuition and books. Additional expenses include uniforms, accessories, equipment, liability insurance and graduation expenses related to licensure and testing. For specific information about these costs, contact the Nursing Division. This information is provided to all who attend the A.S. (RN) admissions meeting.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE (RN)

The application process for students who desire to enter the Nursing Program begins in January. The application deadline for the program is March 1st. Admissions to the Nursing Programs are selective.

A student who applies to the Nursing Program shall:

- A. Provide the following credentials to the office of the Director:
 1. Completed nursing application;
 2. Official high school transcript indicating diploma or GED scores;
 3. An official transcript from any college or university, or;

4. If other schools of nursing have been attended, the applicant is required to submit a letter of eligibility to return to the nursing school;
5. Entrance scores (COMPASS, ASSET, ACT or SAT);
6. High school seniors must submit a list of planned senior year subjects and a transcript of the first six semesters. This must be supplemented upon high school graduation with an official high school transcript.

B. Meet all the following requirements:

1. Be a high school graduate or anticipate high school graduation or, where applicable, pass the General Education Development test (GED)
2. Have at least a 2.5 GPA in required courses at the end of the semester of application
3. Science courses accepted toward the Nursing Degree cannot be over seven years old at the time of entry into the nursing program.
4. Attend one admissions meeting early in the Spring Semester in which admission policies and important nursing information is given. Dates and times are available by calling the Division or on the web site.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all documents in "A" and follow the procedures in "B" for their application to be considered. Enrollment requirements must be completed prior to class selection. Applicants must apply each year to be considered for the Nursing I class.

Admission Process/Selection

The admission process to the Nursing Program, including Nursing I and the LPN to RN track for the A. S. degree is selective. The majority of the applicants for the A. S. (RN) degree are chosen using the grade point average of the general education courses that are required in the A. S. degree plan. Priority is given to those applicants with greater than 20 hours. Specifics of the selection criteria are available in writing by contacting the Nursing Division. Please note that there are slots for students who desire and are eligible for a two-year degree plan.

Admission Qualifiers

All students entering NPCC are tested by the counseling center and according to the entrance test results are placed in specific math, English, reading, or study skills courses. A student can apply for entrance into the A.S. (RN) Nursing Program according to certain parameters. Information about the admission qualifiers can be obtained in writing by contacting the Nursing Division.

Progression

All courses required for the Nursing Program must be completed with a “C” or better. Nursing courses include a theory/classroom grade and a clinical grade. Both components of the course must be passed to progress in the program.

Re-admission

Students admitted and enrolled in nursing are allowed only one re-admission according to space available. Students wishing to re-enter the A. S. (RN) program in Nursing 1208 or succeeding semesters must enroll within three years of previous enrollment in a nursing course. Students re-applying for admission must complete a skills performance competency evaluation. If the student is unsuccessful in their skills competency demonstration, remediation will be required. Specific information regarding readmission, skills evaluation and the remediation is available by contacting the Nursing Division.

Advanced Standing: LPN/LPTN APPLICANTS to RN TRACK

There are special degree plan options for licensed LPN/LPTN applicants. Information about these degree plans with admission and selection criteria is available on the web page or by contacting the Nursing Division. *In order for a LPN/LPTN to apply for, progress in, or complete the ASN degree, they are required to maintain an unencumbered LPN/LPTN license in all states registered (must include Arkansas) as well as be a graduate from a state approved LPN/LPTN school.*

HIGH SCHOOL TO ASN TRACK (3-Year Plan)

This degree plan is intended to encourage high school students to pursue a nursing career. Those accepted into this degree track are admitted to the nursing program and can take three years to complete the Associate of Science degree in Nursing. The first year of this plan allows the student to complete the general education requirements and the last two years concentrate on the Nursing courses. Information about this degree plan with admission and selection criteria is available in writing by contacting the Nursing Division.

Additional Information and Requirements for Nursing Majors

See section following Applications for Certificate Programs for additional information that applies to all Nursing applicants.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (PN)

Application process for students who desire to enter the PN Nursing Program begins in January. The application deadline for the program is March 1st. Admissions to the Nursing Program are selective.

A student who applies to the Nursing Program shall: provide the following credentials to the office of the Director:

1. Completed nursing application; Official high school transcript indicating diploma or GED scores;
2. An official transcript from any college, university, or schools of nursing attended;
3. Entrance scores (COMPASS, ASSET, ACT or SAT), and ;Nurse Entrance Test (Applicant must meet required scores on the COMPASS Test to proceed to the Nurse Entrance Test.);
4. Three references forms

Meet all the following requirements:

1. Students must be 18 years old at time of entry into the program to meet requirements for legal documentation and administration of medications in the hospital setting;
2. Be a high school graduate or anticipate high graduation or where applicable, pass the General Education Development test (GED).

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all documents in "A" and follow the procedures in "B" for the application to be considered. Enrollment requirements must be completed prior to class selection.

Admission Process/Selection

The admission process to the Certificate (PN) Nursing Program is selective. Consideration is given to students previously enrolled in NPCC nursing programs or the high school medical professions program at NPCC. The majority of applicants for the Certificate (PN) are chosen using the percentage scores from the Nurse Entrance Test, and the reference forms. College courses may be accepted towards the PN certificate, evaluation will be done by the Program Director and the Registrar. Math and Science courses cannot be over seven years old at the time of entry into the nursing program. Completion of the secondary Medical Professions course allows for the waiver of selected PN coursework.

Progression

All courses required for the Nursing Program must be completed with a "C" or better. Nursing courses include a theory/classroom grade and a clinical grade. Both components of the course must be passed to progress in the program. Progression in the nursing sequence requires a minimum grade of C in all courses and their pre-requisites/co-requisites. Students who are failing to meet minimum grade requirements may petition the faculty regarding a change in enrollment status to day or evening to allow for continued progression.

Attendance Policy

The Practical Nurse Program is a fast pace curriculum that requires dedication and time. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing mandates the number of hours for clinical and theory that a PN Program must offer. The student should plan to be in attendance every day and schedule appointments after 3:00 pm or when there is

time off from school. (See calendar) If a student has to be absent, then there is a limit on how much time can be missed. Total number of hours missed cannot exceed 72 hours. If hours exceed this total, then the student is terminated from the program. Excused absences will be for court appearances, jury duty, and military service. Special consideration will be given on individual basis for any hospitalization that does not exceed one week.

Re-admission

Students admitted and enrolled in nursing are allowed only one re-admission according to space available. Students wishing to re-enter the Certificate (PN) program must apply as a new applicant. The PN Program Director and Division Chairperson of Nursing will evaluate each student wishing to re-enter before granting permission. The following conditions will prevent re-admission in to the program: an incident of patient endangerment or lack of patient safety.

Applications for Transfer

Students wanting to transfer from another Nursing Program must utilize the general admissions procedures. Deadline for the fall semester is March 1st. Deadline for the spring semester is October 1st. Admissions of transfer students to the Nursing program utilizes NPCC selection criteria, and is dependent on space available. Evaluation of the credit to be awarded for previous college work will be made by the Registrar in collaboration with the Division Chairperson and Program Director.

- A. A student who applies to the Nursing Program shall: provide the following credentials to the office of the Director:
 - 1. Completed nursing application;
 - 2. Official high school transcript indicating diploma or GED scores;
 - 3. An official transcript from any college or university;
 - 4. Syllabi or Letter of confirmation to evidence the number of clinical hours completed;
 - 5. Letter of reference from previous nursing school addressing their eligibility to return; and,
 - 6. Entrance scores (COMPASS, ASSET, ACT or SAT), if needed.

- B. Meet all the following requirements:
 - 1. Have an appointment with the Program Director and/or the Division Chairperson;
 - 2. Have at least a 2.0 GPA in required courses at the time of application;

3. Completion of a skills competency testing prior to the semester of admission. If students are unsuccessful in their skills competency demonstration, they must enroll in a Special Studies Course to remediate the designated skills; and,
4. Meet the additional requirements as required for all nursing majors.

Additional Requirements for Nursing Majors (RN and PN)

In compliance with the terms of contractual agreements with health care agencies which serve as clinical laboratory sites as well as accreditation, federal or state requirements, all nursing students will:

1. Present evidence of required immunizations as required by the State of Arkansas clinical agencies;
2. present evidence of Tuberculosis (TB) testing;
3. present evidence of Hepatitis B vaccination or sign the Nursing Division's declination statement to refuse the Hepatitis B vaccination;
4. maintain current certification in CPR for the professional rescuer;
5. maintain current student-nurse professional liability insurance coverage; and, maintain current health data forms and other information needed according to contractual agreements with clinical agencies. If further test or corrections are needed, they will be completed prior to the first day of classes. All health data forms must be on file before the first day of class,
6. be required to fulfill drug testing requirements as required by clinical agencies and comply with the NPCC Nursing Program Substance Abuse policy.

Denial of Clinical Experience

Enrollment for each nursing class is determined by a faculty/student ratio for clinical experiences set by the State Board of Nursing. Any student who is denied clinical experience by any clinical facility for reasonable cause will be required to withdraw from the National Park Community College Nursing Program. Any student denied clinical access for a justifiable cause by the clinical facility will not be eligible for re-admission into the National Park Community College Nursing Program.

Additional Information for Nursing Majors (RN and PN)

1. The roles of RN and PN student and graduate require specific physical and mental abilities to assume the roles and meet expected educational outcomes for the associate degree or certificate nurse. The student must possess the following abilities: verbal and written communication, problem solving, nursing assessment of both physical and psychosocial health status of clients as well as the safe performance of nursing skills and procedures which include strength and coordination with gross motor ability to lift and ambulate

patients safely, hand-eye coordination and fine motor dexterity, as well as problem-solving and comprehension, analysis, and synthesis of data.

2. Students with documented disabilities who are applying for admission to National Park Community College Nursing Programs are welcome according to the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities who have the required documentation. It is the student's responsibility to inform the faculty of the disability at the beginning of the term (within the first two weeks of the start of each nursing class), how the disability affects performance, and what accommodation(s) will be required. For applicants, please inform the nursing advisor when initiating the application process. For more information, refer to the sections on student activities and special programs in this catalog. If there are any questions, please contact the Division of Nursing in writing.
3. Exposure to communicable diseases (for example, the human immunodeficiency virus which is associated with AIDS, the organism causing Tuberculosis which may be resistant to treatment, and the virus associated with Hepatitis B disease), injuries, and related accidents can occur as part of nursing clinical experiences. Students in the Nursing Program are provided with information and guidance about 1) Protection from infectious illnesses, 2) Immunizations recommended for healthcare workers, 3) Testing for infectious illnesses, 4) Protection from injuries during clinical experiences, and 5) Blood borne Pathogens Education.
4. The faculty of the Nursing Division strongly recommends that students maintain adequate health care coverage and disability insurance for their protection in the event of illness and/or injury.

Third Party Comments about the A.S. (RN) Nursing Programs at NPCC

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) invites third party comments for all programs being reviewed for initial or continuing accreditation. The NLNAC welcomes comments from interested individuals from the nursing community as well as the public at large. The third party comments may be shared at an open meeting or in writing with a signed and dated letter to the Executive Director, NLNAC, 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10014; phone 1-800-669-1656. Comments may be provided up until one month prior to the regularly scheduled accreditation visits. Contact the Division of Nursing for date of next accreditation visit. The comments will be shared with the nursing administrator of the school/program, the program evaluators composing the site visit team, and the Commission. The nursing administrator of the school/program may submit written clarification of any item addressed in the comment letter to the Commission. (NLNAC, 2004)

Degree Requirements- Associate Degree

The following is a list of required courses in sequential order for the Associate Degree (RN) Nursing program.

First Semester

*ORT	1101	Freshman Orientation	1
BIOL	2224	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
MATH	1123	College Algebra	3
NUR	1108	Nursing Process I	8
NUR	1001	Critical Thinking Applications I	1
		Subtotal	17

Second Semester

BIOL	2234	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
NUR	1208	Nursing Process II	8
NUR	1201	Critical Thinking Applications II	1
		Elective	3
		Subtotal	16

Summer Semester

BIOL	2244	Microbiology	4
ENG	1113	English Composition I	3
		Subtotal	7

Third Semester

ENG	1123	English Composition II	3
NUR	2107	Nursing Process III	7
NUR	2303	Nursing Process IV	3
PSYC	1103	General Psychology	3
		Subtotal	16

Fourth Semester

NUR	2203	Issues & Trends	3
NUR	2210	Nursing Process V	10
SOC	1103	Intro to Sociology	3
		Subtotal	16
		Total Credit Hours	71

*Freshman Orientation is not a requirement of the Nursing Program; rather it is a college requirement for any full time first time freshman student. High School to ASN degree plan is 71 SSCH over three years.

Degree Requirements- Associate Degree for LPN to RN Track

The following is a list of required courses in the Associate Degree (RN) Nursing for LPN to RN program. Special admissions requirements apply to this program. This criteria is available in writing from the Division office. Nursing courses must be taken in sequence.

General Education Courses:

*ORT	1101	Freshman Orientation	1
BIOL	2224	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
MATH	1123	College Algebra	3
BIOL	2234	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
BIOL	2244	Microbiology	4
ENG	1113	English Composition I	3
ENG	1123	English Composition II	3
PSYC	1103	General Psychology	3
SOC	1103	Intro to Sociology	3
Elective (may be Chemistry for non-Majors)			3/4
		Subtotal	30 or 31

Spring or Summer

NUR	1302	Current Concepts	2
NUR	1208	Nursing Process II (spring, only)	8
Or			
NUR	1216	Accelerated Nursing	6
		Subtotal	8 or 10

Fall

NUR	2107	Nursing Process III	7
NUR	2303	Nursing Process IV	3
		Subtotal	10

Spring

NUR	2203	Issues & Trends	3
NUR	2210	Nursing Process V	10
		Subtotal	13
		Total Credit Hours	61 to 64

(depending on degree track)

*Freshman Orientation is not a requirement of the Nursing Program; rather it is a college requirement for any full time first time freshman student.

Degree Requirements- PN Certificate: Day Program

The following is a list of required courses in sequential order for the Certificate (PN) Nursing program.

Summer One

PCLM	0063	Basic Math	(3)*
PNP	1131	Medical Terminology	1
		Subtotal	1

Summer Two

PNP	1212	Legal and Ethical Aspects	2
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PNP	1232	Mental Health Nursing	2
PNP	1225	Anatomy and Physiology	5
		Subtotal	9
Fall Semester			
PNP	1308	Basic Concepts of Nursing	8
PNP	1322	Nutrition	2
PNP	1331	Gerontological Nursing	1
PNP	1342	Pharmacology I	2
PNP	1351	Medical Surgical Nursing I	1
PNP	1366	Clinical and Clinical Research I	6
		Subtotal	20
Spring Semester			
PNP	1412	Maternity Nursing	2
PNP	1422	Nursing of Children	2
PNP	1432	Pharmacology II	2
PNP	1446	Medical Surgical Nursing II	6
PNP	1458	Clinical & Clinical Research II	8
		Subtotal	20
Summer Term			
PNP	1513	Medical Surgical Nursing III	3
PNP	1522	Clinical III	2
		Subtotal	5
		Total Credit Hours	55

* College placement testing may require the student to remediate math skills with the pre-college level course 0063.

Graduation Requirement: All students completing the LPN Certificate program are required to complete the Practical/Vocational Nursing Review and the PN CAT (Computerized Analysis Test).

Degree Requirements- Certificate Part-time Evening Program

The following is a list of required courses in sequential order for the Certificate (LPN) Nursing evening program. If Basic Math 0063* is needed, it must be completed prior to entry into the Nursing sequence.

May Mini Sessions			
PNP	1131	Medical Terminology	1
PNP	1212	Legal and Ethical Aspects	2
		Subtotal	3

Summer One/Two			
PNP	1225	Anatomy and Physiology	5
		Subtotal	5
Fall Semester			
PNP	1308	Basic Concepts of Nursing	8
PNP	1232	Mental Health Nursing	2
		Subtotal	10
Spring Semester			
PNP	1322	Nutrition	2
PNP	1342	Pharmacology I	2
PNP	1351	Medical Surgical Nursing I	1
PNP	1364	Clinical and Clinical Research I	4
		Subtotal	9
Summer One/Two			
PNP	1413	Maternity Nursing	3
PNP	1423	Nursing of Children	3
		Subtotal	6
Fall Semester			
PNP	1331	Gerontological Nursing	2
PNP	1433	Medical Surgical Nursing II, Part 1	3
PNP	1454	Clinical and Clinical Research I	4
		Subtotal	9
Spring Semester			
PNP	1432	Pharmacology II	2
PNP	1443	Medical Surgical Nursing II, Part 2	3
PNP	1464	Clinical & Clinical Research II	4
		Subtotal	9
Summer Term			
PNP	1513	Medical Surgical Nursing III	3
PNP	1522	Clinical III	2
		Subtotal	5
		Total Credit Hours	55

* College placement testing may require the student to remediate math skills with the pre-college level course 0063

Graduation Requirement: All students completing the LPN Certificate program are required to complete the Practical/Vocational Nursing Review and the PN CAT (Computerized Analysis Test).

Surgical Technology

This is an introductory course of study designed for a beginning level of practice in the operating room, or an area designed to prepare sterile equipment for use in the operating room. The course of study offers a variety of options, including classroom work only or classroom and clinical experience. Additional courses are available on campus to enhance one's ability to prepare for a role in the operating room. The Surgical Technology courses are non-transferable and would not meet requirements for certification.

Admissions to the Surgical Technology Courses are selective. Information requiring coursework and applications are available from the Division Chair/Nursing Program Director. Additional admission information regarding selection is available on the Surgical Tech application. Application deadline for the fall semester is August 1st and October 1st for the spring semester. Other students may be considered following these dates if there is space available.

A student who applies for the course at National Park Community College shall:

- A. Provide the following credentials to the Office of the Director, Division of Nursing, 101 College Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71913.
 1. Completed application with two letters of reference (if you have worked in the Operating Room, one letter must be from a supervisor);
 2. complete a six (6)-hour observation in an operating room (TB skin test and confidentiality form required)[may be waived if presently working in the OR];
 3. official high school transcript indicating diploma or GED scores;
 4. an official transcript(s) from any college, university or schools of nursing attended;
 5. entrance scores (Compass, ASSET, ACT, or SAT).

Medication Aide - Certified

There are two options that allow the student to take the state proficiency test which permit employment as a MA-C in a nursing home setting. The student may complete a Certificate of Proficiency (10 to 12 SSCH) requiring one semester, or the student may take only the 5 SSCH coursework (MA 1103 and MA 1102).

Admissions

Students admitted to the medication aide program must meet the general requirement for College admissions. In addition, they must submit an application to the

Division of Nursing. This process documents that the student meets all of the state requirements for entry. Once the student's file is complete, they will be notified of admission. If the number of applicants is greater than can be accommodated by clinical arrangements, students will be admitted based on date the file is complete. Sufficient number of students must enroll in order for the College to offer the course. Requirements include:

1. High school graduate or equivalency.
2. Documentation of completion of the Compass test in reading with appropriate score.
3. Documentation of listed in good standing on the state's certified nurse aide registry and has maintained registration continuously for a minimum of one year.
4. Documentation of current employment in a nursing home.
5. Documentation of completion of one continuous year of full time employment as a certified nursing assistant.
6. Medication Aide application .
7. Completion of the required Division of Nursing paperwork (Responsibility forms and Health Data form).

Medication Aide Certificate of Proficiency

The following is a list of required courses.

First Semester

MA	1103	Medication Assistance	3
MA	1102	Medication Assistance	2
ALH	1203	Medical Terminology	3
CIS	1101	Introduction to Computing I	1

Choice of elective (pick one)

SUPM	1183	Effective Communication	3
CIS	1011	Intro to Computing II	1
SPCH	1103	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
Social Science Course - approval of Chair			3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS			10 - 12