

# PRACTICAL NURSING

## (Wallace and Sparks Campuses)

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) provide bedside patient care under the supervision of a registered nurse, physician, or dentist. While providing direct patient care, the LPN is in a strategic position to observe the patient's response to treatment and care. As an effective and contributing member of the nursing team, the LPN assists in implementing the patient's care plan. In some settings, the LPN may be responsible for supervising nursing care delivery to a group of patients. The LPN may administer medications and treatments to assigned patients while supervising nursing assistants performing basic nursing functions.

The Practical Nursing program at Wallace Community College is approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing and is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The ACEN is a resource for information regarding the PN program. The ACEN can be contacted at 3343 Peachtree Road Northeast, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, 404-975-5000.

The Alabama Community College System Practical Nursing curriculum is three semesters in length. Course offerings include nursing theory, biological sciences, and clinical experiences. On successful completion of the prescribed curriculum, graduates receive a program certificate and are eligible to make application to take the *National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses* (NCLEX-PN) to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Eligibility for completion of the Practical Nursing program requires completion of all curriculum components, including comprehensive assessment testing during each term of enrollment in NUR-prefix courses.

Each nursing student will comply with legal, moral, and legislative standards in the *Alabama Law Regulating Practice of Registered and Practical Nursing* as stated below:

The Board may also deny, revoke, or suspend any license issued by it or otherwise discipline a licensee upon proof that the licensee: is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license; has been convicted of a felony; is guilty of a crime involving moral turpitude or of gross immorality that would tend to bring reproach upon the nursing profession; is unfit or incompetent due to the use of alcohol, or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs to such an extent as to render him or her unsafe or unreliable as a licensee; is unable to safely practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, inebriation, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, alcohol, chemicals, or any other substance, or as a result of any mental or physical condition; has been convicted of any violation of a federal or state law relating to controlled substances; is guilty of unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public in matters pertaining to health or has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this article as defined by Board rules and regulations.\*

It is important that Practical Nursing students are aware of Alabama Board of Nursing regulations on the review of candidates for eligibility for initial and continuing licensure. The *Application for Licensure by Examination* asks specific questions such as the following:

1. Have you ever been arrested for, been charged with, been convicted of, entered a plea of guilty to, entered a plea of *nolo contendere* or *no contest* for, received deferred prosecution or adjudication for, had judgment withheld for, received pretrial diversion for, or pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity or mental defect to any crime other than a minor traffic violation in any state, territory, or country? A crime related to driving while impaired or while under the influence of any substance is not a minor traffic violation.
2. In the past five years, have you abused alcohol, drugs (whether legal or illegal, prescribed or unauthorized), and/or other chemical substances or received treatment or been recommended for treatment for dependency to alcohol, drugs (whether legal or illegal, prescribed or unauthorized), and/or other chemical substances?
3. Have you ever been arrested or convicted for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol?
4. In the past five years, have you had, or do you now have, a physical or mental health problem that may impair your ability to provide safe nursing care?
5. Has the licensing authority of any state, territory, or country denied, revoked, suspended, reprimanded, fined, accepted your surrender of, restricted, limited, placed on probation, or in any other way disciplined your nursing and/or any other occupational license, registration, certification, or approval?
6. Is the Board of Nursing or other licensing authority of any state, territory, or country, including but not limited to, the Alabama Board of Nursing, currently investigating you?
7. Is disciplinary action pending against you with the Board of Nursing or other licensing authority of any state, territory, or country, including but not limited, to the Alabama Board of Nursing?
8. Have you ever been placed on a state and/or federal abuse registry?
9. Has any branch of the armed services ever administratively discharged you with any characterization of service besides *Honorable* and/or court-martialed you?

Applications for the *National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses* (NCLEX-PN) may be denied on the basis of this review. Although these policies specifically refer to Alabama, other states have similar stipulations regarding licensure.

\*Alabama Board of Nursing, *Nurse Practice Act, 1997-98, Article II, §34-21-25.*

## ADMISSION

**Program requirements for health programs offered within the Alabama Community College System may be reviewed and revised between publication deadlines for this and future College Catalog and Student Handbook documents. Admission requirements below were in effect at the time this document was published and may or may not be current. Prospective students should contact the program office to obtain requirement updates.**

Minimum admission standards include the following:

1. Unconditional admission to Wallace Community College.
2. Receipt of completed application for the Practical Nursing program.
3. A minimum 2.5 grade point average for the last 24 hours of college credit for students with previous college work or high school diploma or GED for students with no previous college work.
  - a. Students who have undergraduate-level credit hours will have a grade point average based on the most recent 24 hours of undergraduate credit hours.
  - b. Students who have 24 or more credit hours at the graduate level will have a grade point average based on the most recent 24 hours of graduate level credit—undergraduate-level credit hours will be ignored.
  - c. Students who have less than 24 hours at the graduate level will have a grade point average computed on the most recent 24 hours of undergraduate credit hours—graduate credit hours will be ignored.
  - d. High school credits will not be used in calculating grade point average, except as required in the Early Admission for Accelerated High School Students program.
4. Eligibility for the following courses on or before the program application deadline:
  - a. ENG 101 and MTH 116 or higher level math as determined by College policy.
  - b. BIO 201 through successful completion of BIO 103 or satisfactory performance on The Alabama Community System Biology Placement Exam.
5. A status of good standing with Wallace Community College.
6. Ability to meet the essential functions or technical standards required for nursing. A copy of the essential functions is available from the PN program office and published on the College website, [www.wallace.edu](http://www.wallace.edu).
7. Completion of the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills, Version V (TEAS-V) within three years of the program application deadline.

Contractual agreements between the College and clinical agencies impose additional requirements on students enrolled in health programs. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the areas of attire, confidentiality, criminal background check, liability insurance, and substance abuse screening. Any student denied clinical privileges or having clinical privileges revoked by a healthcare facility due to positive background findings or clinical misconduct is not eligible for program admission or readmission.

**Admission to the Practical Nursing program is competitive. The number of students accepted may be limited by the number of available faculty and clinical facilities. Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance.**

## GRADING SCALE

NUR-prefix courses will be evaluated using the following grading scale:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 75-79
- D 60-74
- F 59 and below

## GRADUATE OPTIONS

Licensed Practical Nurses, after successfully passing the *National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses*, may apply for advanced placement in the Wallace Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. Contact the ADN Program Office for details of the LPN-to-RN Mobility program.

## PROGRESSION

In order to progress in the nursing program the following policy should be followed:

1. A total of two **unsuccessful** attempts in two separate semesters (D, F, or W) in the nursing program will result in dismissal from the program.
2. A student may be **reinstated** to the nursing program only one time. The **reinstatement** is not guaranteed due to limitations in clinical spaces. All nursing admission standards must be met.
3. A student must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the current institution for **reinstatement**.
4. If a student has a documented extenuating circumstance that should be considered related to a withdrawal or failure, then this student may request a hearing before the Admission Committee or other appropriate college committee for a decision on repeating a course or readmission to the program.

Definitions:

**Reinstatement:** Students who have a withdrawal or failure in a nursing course and are eligible to return to that course will be considered for reinstatement to the program.

**Readmission:** Students not eligible for program reinstatement may apply for program admission as a new student. If accepted as a new student, the student must take or retake all nursing program courses.

Students must successfully complete all NUR courses with each semester listed in the standardized curriculum prior to progressing to the next semester. NUR courses are sequential and cannot be combined. All courses listed in the PN curriculum must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

#### **Process for Reinstatement**

1. Schedule an appointment with a nursing faculty member or advisor to discuss eligibility for reinstatement.
2. Apply for reinstatement to the nursing program and submit the application by published deadlines.
3. Apply for readmission to the College if not currently enrolled. College readmission must be accomplished by published deadlines.
4. Update all drug testing and background screening according to program policy.

#### **AUDIT**

Effective September 12, 2012 there shall be no auditing allowed for any Health Science classes.

#### **TRANSFER POLICY**

The transfer policy applies only to students desiring to transfer among Alabama Community College System institutions. It does not apply to students who want to transfer from other institutions.

#### **Criteria for Transfer**

1. Meet minimum admission standards for the nursing program.
2. Possess a grade of **C** or better in all nursing program required courses taken at another institution and possess a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average at time of transfer.
3. Provide a letter of eligibility for progression from the dean or director of the previous nursing program for progression in previous nursing program.
4. Comply with all program policy requirements at the accepting institution.
5. Complete at least 25% of the nursing program required courses for degree or certificate at the accepting institution.
6. Meet acceptability criteria for placement at clinical agencies for clinical experience.

Acceptance of transfer students into nursing programs is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available. **Meeting minimal standards does not guarantee acceptance.** Student selection for transfer is based on grade point average in nursing program required courses.

#### **TRANSIENT STUDENT POLICY**

The transient policy applies only to students desiring to transfer among Alabama Community College System institutions. It does not apply to students who want to transfer from other institutions.

#### **Criteria for Transient Status**

1. Meet minimum admission standards for the nursing program.
2. Possess a grade of **C** or better in all nursing program required courses taken at another institution and possess a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
3. Provide a letter of eligibility for progression from the dean or director of the previous nursing program for progression in previous nursing program.
4. Secure permission, if enrolled at another institution, from that institution by submitting an *Application for Admission* to Wallace Community College and a *Transient Student Form* completed by an official (nursing program dean or director) of the primary institution.
5. Complete a *Transcript Request Form* at the end of the term before a transcript will be issued to the primary institution.
6. Comply with all program policy requirements at accepting institution.
7. Meet acceptability criteria for placement at clinical agencies for clinical experience.

Acceptance of transient student into a nursing program is limited by the number of faculty members and clinical facilities available. **Meeting minimal standards does not guarantee acceptance.** Student selection for transient status is based on the grade point average in nursing program required courses.

#### **ADN TRANSFER TO LPN PROGRAM**

Associate Degree Nursing program students may apply for admission to the third semester of the Practical Nursing program after they have completed the first two semesters of coursework—BIO 201 and 202, ENG 101, MTH 100, and NUR 102, 103, 104, 105, and 106—with a grade of **C** or better. Students who elect to transfer to the last semester in the Practical Nursing program will be required to meet the current program admission and/or readmission requirements. Students will be admitted on a space-available basis to the Practical Nursing program.

To be eligible for this option the student must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete a transfer/readmission form.
2. Have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average at current institution.
3. Meet clinical and health record requirements.
4. Have no more than 12 months elapse from the last clinical nursing course, in which the student was successful.

Students will be ranked on cumulative grade point average for the purposes of transfer and/or readmission to the PN program. Students who have two attempts in the Associate Degree Nursing program are only allowed one attempt in the Practical Nursing program. Students who are successful may apply for the LPN-to-RN Mobility program as outlined in this catalog. If unsuccessful in the Practical Nursing transfer option, the student must meet current admission and progression requirements.

## GRADUATE OPTIONS

Licensed Practical Nurses, after successfully passing the *National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses* (NCLEX-PN), may apply for advanced placement in the Wallace Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. Contact the ADN Program Office for details regarding the LPN-to-RN Mobility program.

## CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

<i>Course</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
<b><i>Required General Education Courses</i></b>	<b><i>14</i></b>
<b>Area I: Written and Oral Communications</b>	<b>3</b>
ENG 101 English Composition I	3
<b>Area III: Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science</b>	<b>11</b>
MTH 116 Mathematical Applications or higher	3
BIO 201* Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
<b>Area V: Career and Technical Courses</b>	<b>37</b>
<b><i>Required Orientation Courses</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>
ORI 101 Orientation to College <b>OR</b>	
ORI 105 Orientation and Student Success	1-3
<b>OR</b>	
ORT 100 Orientation for Career Students	
ORI 104 WorkKeys® Assessment and Advisement	1
<b><i>Required Field of Concentration Courses</i></b>	<b><i>35</i></b>
NUR 102 Fundamentals of Nursing	6
NUR 103 Health Assessment	1
NUR 104 Introduction to Pharmacology	1
NUR 105 Adult Nursing	8
NUR 106 Maternal and Child Nursing	5
NUR 107 Adult/Child Nursing	8
NUR 108 Psychosocial Nursing	3
NUR 109 Role Transition	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>51</b>

***\*BIO 103 or a satisfactory score on the ACCS Biology Placement Exam is a prerequisite.***

**Comprehensive Assessment (CA) testing through the use of standardized and validated assessment tools will be incorporated into each field of concentration course. This assessment may or may not comprise a portion of grade calculation and is intended to aid in advisement, counseling, and/or remediation of students. Costs associated with CA are the responsibility of the individual student.**

## *Practical Nursing Certificate Suggested Course Sequence*

<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>	<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>	<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>
BIO 201*	BIO 202	NUR 107
EMS 100**	ENG 101	NUR 108
MTH 116 or higher	NUR 105	NUR 109
NUR 102	NUR 106	
NUR 103		
NUR 104		
ORI 101 or 105 or ORT 100***		
ORI 104		

***\*BIO 103 or satisfactory performance on the ACCS approved Biology Placement Exam is a prerequisite to BIO 201.***

***\*\*Or current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the health care provider level. On-line certification without hands-on skills sessions is not acceptable.***

***\*\*\*ORI 101 or ORI 105 or transfer credit for an orientation to college course is required for all students.***