

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Sequencing of Courses

The program is designed to culminate in six student learning outcomes. Therefore, each course is leveled based on these outcomes as well as populations of patients. The sequencing of courses reflects higher cognitive levels, a different patient population, and more encompassing of the scope of practice of the Practical Nurse. This sequencing allows faculty to apply Dr. Benner's theory of Novice to Expert (Benner, Tanner, & Chesla, 2009). Faculty understand novice learners are rule-driven. As they are challenged to apply critical thinking they grow and are able to look at the bigger picture as they enter stage of advanced beginner by completion of the program.

PN Program: Student Learning Outcomes

Faculty believe in the importance of incorporating professional standards, guidelines, and competencies as the basis for the nursing curriculum. The program must reflect current nursing practice. To this end, a rigorous and thorough examination of the current literature on nursing practice and nursing education was conducted. These findings guided the development of the program student learning outcomes. Additionally, faculty examined the current healthcare environment in the Lynchburg area. These program student learning outcomes along with their related competencies reflect the expected behaviors of the graduates of Centra College, Practical Nursing Program. Therefore, these program student learning outcomes are used to organize the curriculum, and guide all activities related to the teaching/learning process, including delivery of instruction and evaluation of student progress.

Program Schedule

The academic year is defined as semesters. There are four semesters in the Practical Nursing program. Semesters are a minimum of 13 weeks in length and a maximum of 16 weeks in length. All nursing courses are 13 weeks in length. Courses taken at the community college are up to 16 weeks in length. The Practical Nursing program is a maximum of 55 weeks in length. The Practical Nursing program has 1095 contact hours for the concept-based curriculum with 50 semester credits awarded for completion of the program.

Full-time status is 12 credit hours of study per semester. This action is applied to all students.

The formula for semester credit conversion is:

1 semester credit = 15 lecture hours, 30 laboratory hours, and 45 clinical hours

Concept-Based Curriculum

First Semester

BIO 145: Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Sciences* *or*

BIO 142: Anatomy and Physiology II*

PSY 230: Developmental Psychology*

ENG 111: College Composition I*

HLT 143: Medical Terminology I*

SDV 101: Orientation to Nursing

Second Semester

HLT 230: Principles of Nutrition and Human Development*

NUR 115: Introduction to Nursing Concepts

NUR 116: Health Promotion and Basic Assessment

Third Semester

NUR 125: Nursing Concepts I

NUR 126: Health Care Participant

Fourth Semester

NUR 135: Nursing Concepts II

NUR 136: Professional Nursing Concepts

Courses completed at Central Virginia Community College include:*

Course	Semester Credit hours
BIO 145: Human Anatomy and Physiology for the Health Sciences or	4
BIO 142: Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSY 230: Developmental Psychology	3
ENG 111: College Composition I	3
HLT 143: Medical Terminology	3
HTL 230: Principles of Nutrition and Human Development	3

+Co-requisite courses must be completed in the term to which they are assigned or prior to admission. Proof of enrollment must be submitted to Centra College on or before the first day of the term.

+Students may choose to complete BIO 145 or BIO 142 to satisfy the biology general education requirement. Please note that Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) may have additional requirements for enrollment into these courses.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NUR 115 — Introduction to Nursing Concepts

Semester-Credit Hours: 4

Class Hours: 45

Laboratory Hours: 30

Introduces concepts of nursing practice and conceptual learning. Focuses on basic nursing concepts with an emphasis on safe nursing practice and the development of the nursing process. Provides supervised learning experiences in college nursing laboratories and/or simulated environments. **Corequisites:** *BIO 145 or BIO 142, PSY 230, ENG 111, HLT 143, SDV 101, NUR 116.*

NUR 116 — Health Promotion and Basic Assessment

Semester-Credit Hours: 5

Class Hours: 30

Laboratory Hours: 30

Clinical Hours: 90

Introduces basic assessment and health promotion for the individual and family. Includes basic assessment of infants, children, adults, geriatric clients and pregnant females. Emphasizes health history and the acquisition of physical assessment skills with underlying concepts of development, communication, and health promotion. Prepares students to demonstrate competency in the assessment of clients across the lifespan. Provides supervised learning experiences in college nursing laboratories and/or simulated environments. **Corequisites:** *BIO 145 or BIO 142, PSY 230, ENG 111, HLT 143, SDV 101, NUR 115.*

NUR 125 — Nursing Concepts I

Semester-Credit Hours: 7

Class Hours: 75

Clinical Hours: 90

Focuses on care of clients across the lifespan in multiple settings including concepts related to physiological health alterations and reproduction. Emphasizes the nursing process in the development of clinical judgment for clients with multiple needs. Provides supervised learning experiences through classroom learning, simulated environments and/or cooperating agencies. **Prerequisites:** *BIO 145 or BIO 142, PSY 230, ENG 111, HLT 143, SDV 101, HLT 230, NUR 115, NUR 116.* **Corequisite:** *NUR 126.*

NUR 126 — Health Care Participant (Individual, Family, Community)

Semester-Credit Hours: 5

Class Hours: 60

Clinical Hours: 45

Focuses on the health and wellness of diverse individuals, families, and the community throughout the lifespan. Covers concepts that focus on client attributes and preferences regarding healthcare. Emphasizes population-focused care. Provides supervised learning experiences through classroom learning, simulated environments and/or cooperating agencies. **Prerequisites:** *BIO 145 or BIO 142, PSY 230, ENG 111, HLT 143, SDV 101, HLT 230, NUR 115, NUR 116.* **Corequisite:** *NUR 125.*

NUR 135 — Nursing Concepts II: 6 Credits

Semester-Credit Hours: 6

Class Hours: 60

Clinical Hours: 90

Focuses on care of clients across the lifespan in multiple settings including concepts related to psychological and physiological health alterations. Emphasizes the nursing process in the development of clinical judgment for clients with multiple needs. Provides supervised learning experiences through classroom learning, simulated

environments and/or cooperating agencies.

Prerequisites: *BIO 145 or BIO 142, PSY 230, ENG 111, HLT 143, SDV 101, HLT 230, NUR 125, NUR 126. Corequisite: NUR 136.*

NUR 136 — Professional Nursing Concepts

Semester-Credit Hours: 6

Class Hours: 45

Clinical Hours: 135

Develops the role of the professional nurse in the healthcare environment in preparation for practice as a practical nurse. Introduces leadership and management concepts professional identity, legal/ethical issues and contemporary trends in professional nursing and focuses on the integration of professional behaviors in a variety of healthcare settings. Emphasizes the mastery of patient- centered care, safety, nursing judgment, professional behaviors, informatics, quality improvement, and collaboration in the achievement of optimal outcomes of care. Provides supervised learning experiences through classroom learning, simulated environments and/or cooperating agencies. **Prerequisites:** *BIO 145 or BIO 142, PSY 230, ENG 111, HLT 143, SDV 101, HLT 230, NUR 115, NUR 116, NUR 125, NUR 126. Corequisite: NUR 135.*