



Practical Nursing Program Description

The Practical Nursing (PN) Program prepares participants to become **licensed practical nurses**. Those who successfully complete the program are awarded a **Certificate** and will be eligible to apply to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

The program is **3 semesters** in length and incorporates both nursing and general education classes. All courses must be taken and successfully completed in the order delineated in the curriculum plan, though any or all of the general education requirements may be fulfilled earlier.

Students enrolled in the PN nursing program attend classes in the Health Sciences Center on the Decatur campus **2-3 days per week** for up to six hours per day. This time is used for nursing lectures and to develop skills and proficiencies in the on-campus nursing laboratory.

In addition to on-campus classes, **clinical education** takes place at area health care facilities each semester. The required number of hours varies with each nursing course. These experiences are primarily scheduled weekdays between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Health facility assignments are based on the learning needs of the student, not geographical proximity to their home. **Students must have reliable transportation, flexibility in their personal schedules, and the willingness to commute to hospitals throughout north Alabama.**

Acceptance into the program is competitive. Students are selected for admission to the program based on their ranking according to a point system. Refer to the program application for details.

Please see the current Catalog for further details including program philosophy and objectives, program accreditation, Alabama Board of Nursing licensure eligibility, student drug testing and background checks, and program costs.

For more information about Licensed Practical Nursing including earnings and job outlook, go to:

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos102.htm>