

Practical Nursing Program **Frequently Asked Questions**

What are the pre-requisite courses for the PN program?

There are 11 hours of pre-requisite courses. These include Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credit hours), Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credit hours) and Nutrition (3 credit hours).

Will I be required to take an entrance exam prior to entering the nursing program?

Yes, all students who want to be considered for admission into the PN program will be required to take the (TEAS) Test for Essential Academic Skills test.

How do I apply for admission into the PN program?

Once you have completed the pre-requisite courses or are currently enrolled in them, you may be eligible to apply for the PN program. You will need to register to take the TEAS test. The testing dates are available online at www.uaccm.edu. Go to "Testing Services" on the drop down menu on the right. Make sure of the application deadline and have all necessary applications and documents turned in to the Nursing Department by the deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.

How long will the PN program take?

This varies for everyone. However, if you were to begin as a full time student (12 semester hours) and not have to take remedial courses, it is possible to complete the LPN program in as little as 18 months. However, based on enrollment status (full or part time) and remedial courses, it is hard to determine the exact amount of time for completion of the program.

When does the nursing program start?

A new class begins each Spring and Summer semester.

How many students are selected for the program?

24 students are selected each Spring and Summer semester to begin the program.

How do I get into the nursing program?

A Practical Nurse Selection Rating Form will be used to assign points to each applicant according to the TEAS exam and education points. The rating form will be used to tabulate the points for each applicant. The applicants will be ranked from highest to lowest. Students will be selected for admission into the program based upon the number of points received from the selection criteria. There are 411 points possible on the rating form. 11 points can be gained through education points and 400 points can be gained by the TEAS test. The 24 applicants with the highest scores closest to 411 will be selected.

How do I read the TEAS test results and apply them to the application?

Points are given for the **Adjusted Individual Score** that you receive for each section: Reading, Mathematics, Science and English and Language Usage (NOT the Adjusted Individual Total Score). To determine the amount of points, please refer to the PN Student Selection Rating Form which can be found in the Practical Nursing Program Application Packet.

Do you offer evening or online courses for the nursing program?

While working to complete your pre-requisite courses, a couple of these may be offered online or during the evening. However, once accepted into the actual PN track, there will not be evening classes available. Some LPN courses are online or hybrid, but class time is definitely required.

Do I have to take any remedial courses?

Once you take the ACT or Compass test, please visit with an Admissions Counselor about your scores. They can review your scores and help you with any course placement. UACCM offers different levels of remediation, and a counselor can help you determine if you have to take any of those courses.

Do courses from other colleges transfer in?

When transferring credits from other colleges, there is not a guarantee that the credit will transfer. However, if you have taken any of the prerequisite courses at another institution, please contact the Registrar in order to determine if these credits may transfer. The Registrar's Office is located in the University Center in Room 215 or can be reached by calling 501-977-2052. You may also contact Deborah Rodgers, Director of Nursing and Allied Health, at 501-977-2152 to determine if credits will be transferrable.

Can I work a full time job while going through the nursing program?

Working is not prohibited, but students are strongly advised to limit work hours as much as possible. Most students have found it difficult to manage a job and succeed in the program due to time commitments.

Do I have to have all my prerequisite courses completed before applying to the nursing program?

No, however, you must have either completed your pre-requisite courses or be currently enrolled in them. Practical Nursing pre-requisite courses must be completed prior to the program start date for the semester. Students may be enrolled in their final pre-requisite classes at the time of selection. *If you do not have the pre-requisites completed with a final grade by the application deadline, you are still eligible to apply; however, you will be deducted those education points.

Is this an Associate's Degree or a Technical Certificate?

The Practical Nursing program is a technical certificate program. It requires 57 semester hours complete the certificate, not including any remedial courses that may be necessary.

What if I am not selected for the nursing program the first time I apply?

Students who are not selected as a candidate to the Practical Nursing program must submit a new application packet each semester they wish to be considered for admission to the program. There is not a waiting list and there is no guarantee that students that make alternates will be admitted into the program.

Are financial aid and/or scholarships available?

Yes. There are several financial aid/scholarship options. For more information, you can call the financial aid office at 501-977-2055. One of the first things to do is complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You may do this by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. UACCM's school code is 005245.

What is the NCLEX?

The National Council Licensure Examination is the competency examination for licensure. Currently the cost of the test is \$200. Those interested in working as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the state of Arkansas are required to both graduate from a state-approved PN program and pass the NCLEX – PN national licensure examination.

When is the deadline to apply for the PN program?

The deadline for the Spring semester is October 1st. The deadline for the Summer semester is March 1st of each academic year.

Is there a time limit on Anatomy and Physiology?

No. However students will be responsible for knowing the information when they enter the practical nursing program.

Do Anatomy and Physiology I and II have to be from the same institution?

According to the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) at www.adhe.edu, Anatomy and Physiology I and II must be from the same institution (Fall 2007).

How often can a student take the TEAS?

The TEAS will be given in Testing Services prior to the application deadline. Students will only be allowed to take the TEAS one time per application period. Only TEAS scores from UACCM will be considered.

Can I use TEAS results from prior application periods?

Yes. TEAS test scores from one test application period given at UACCM within the last 3 years will be considered. Only TEAS results from one complete test will be considered. You may not superscore TEAS results.

Is there a study guide available for the TEAS?

Yes. There is a study guide available in the campus bookstore. The cost of the study guide is \$53.23 including tax. You may also use free websites such as http://www.testprepreview.com/teas_practice.htm. Websites such as this may not provide study material in depth. The use of other forms of study guides is strongly urged. You may also visit www.atitesting.com for more resources and study tips for the TEAS.

What subjects are covered on the TEAS exam?

There are 4 subjects that you will be tested over on the TEAS exam which include basic academic knowledge in reading, mathematics, science and English and language usage. The objectives assessed on the TEAS exam are those which nurse educators deemed most appropriate and relevant to measure entry level skills and abilities of nursing program applicants.

Will I have to have a criminal background check done?

Yes, students will be required to complete a background check upon selection into the Practical Nursing program. Students must have a clean background check to be admitted into the program. For more information or questions about the criminal background check, please contact the Nursing Department at 501-977-2152.

How much does the nursing program cost?

The cost of the program may vary for each student, depending on if you have to take any remedial courses and also depending on where you live. The cost of tuition is \$78 per credit hour for those who live in Conway County. If you live outside of the county, but in Arkansas, the cost is \$85 per credit hour. The PN program is 57 credit hours to complete. There are also other fees and costs incurred. For a full list of prices, you may request an information packet to be mailed to you.

Where will my clinicals be held?

Clinicals are mandatory. Clinicals often require a lot of travel and the times vary. Clinicals may be held at nursing homes, hospitals, schools, hospice, and a variety of other affiliations across multiple counties surrounding Conway County.

I already have a Bachelor's Degree. Will this help me get into the nursing program?

In order to apply for the PN program, the prerequisite courses must be completed or currently enrolled in them. If you did not complete the prerequisite courses with your Bachelor's degree, then you will be required to complete the courses. Having a Bachelor's degree may increase your educational point value if you have completed the prerequisite. If not, then holding a degree will not increase your chance of being accepted into the program.

What are the responsibilities of a LPN?

In most states, LPNs are not permitted to give IV's, administer certain medications, or administer blood/blood products. Some common tasks performed by LPNs include taking vital signs, apply medical dressings, administer medications, perform routine laboratory tests, record food and liquid intake and output and keeping patients comfortable and care for the emotional needs.

Does UACCM offer a RN program?

Yes, but it is a LPN to RN bridge program. You must be a LPN first before applying to the RN program. The RN program also has pre-requisites that are needed before applying. Applications for the RN program are due by August 31st and classes begin in January of each year. For more information on this program, please contact 501-977-2152 or visit www.uaccm.edu.

What other documents will I need to be admitted into the PN program?

Once being accepted into the PN program, you will need to possess an American Heart Healthcare Provider CPR certification, negative TB skin test and a clean background check. You must present these documents at the beginning of the PN track.

I have children at home and I am not sure how I am going to afford my nursing supplies, what do I do?

Career Pathways is a grant funded program that is available to students who have minor children living at home. You must meet certain criteria to qualify. There is an income limit due to number of people living in your household. If you qualify for certain government assistance, you may qualify for this program. For more information about the educational and financial help that Career Pathways can provide, please contact the Career Pathways Office at 501-977-2186.

What kind of CPR certification do I need?

You must possess an American Heart Association, Level C Healthcare Provider certification. To schedule a CPR course, contact Kimberly Darling, Director of Adult & Community Education, at 501-215-4905 or email her at darling@uaccm.edu. You may also register at the Community Education building located at 600 N. Joseph Street in Morrilton. The cost of the course is \$45.