

FAQs on Practical Nursing

- What courses should I take in High School?
 - Focus on algebra and biology (regular biology with a lab component). You need to make at least a C in these courses. If your goal is to go further in nursing to become a Registered Nurse with an Associate's Degree, you will also need chemistry with a lab and a grade of C or better. To progress to your Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, it will help you to have 3 years of a world language, as you may not be required to take more in college.

- What do I need to do to be admitted into the Practical nursing program?
 - Submit an [application to the college](#)
 - Consult one of the college counselors who will review transcripts and complete program placement in pre-clinical portion of the PN Program.
 - Consult one of the financial aid counselors
 - Complete any recommended developmental courses based upon your placement.
 - Complete a Nursing Information Session (Virtual)
 - Study, register for, and take the [ATI-TEAS Pre-Entrance Test](#)
 - Submit an application to the Practical Nursing Program of your choice. (Alberta, South Boston)
 - Take as many of the required [general education courses](#) as you can prior to acceptance into the program. Maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average. You will need time to focus on both the classroom/lecture component and the clinical component of the nursing courses once accepted!

- Are there any scholarships or other funds available to help me with school related expenses?
 - The college participates in state and federal financial aid programs as well as several scholarship programs administered by the [SVCC Foundation](#).

- Are there any other tests that I need to take?
 - The [ATI-TEAS Test](#), Version 7, is the pre-Entrance exam for Practical Nursing. Students must score of at least 53% overall and at least 53% on the math subtest on this test to be considered for admission. Further details on this test can be found under the [testing page](#) of this website.

- How long will it take me to get through the program?

- If you have all the high school requirements and do not need any developmental courses, it is possible to complete the program in 3 semesters.
 - However, the Practical Nursing Program is rigorous and it is more difficult to be successful if you have many responsibilities. If you work, or have children to care for, we recommend that you take as many of the general education courses as possible prior to entry in the first nursing course with a clinical component (PNE 161).
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- How many days a week and when will I be in school once I begin the nursing courses?
 - You will attend classes or clinicals 4 days a week most of the time with occasional need for 5 days.
 - Clinicals may be either 8 hour or 12 hour days.
 - Classes will be scheduled between 8AM & 4PM.
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- May I take some of my prerequisites while I'm still in high school?
 - Yes, you will need approval from your principal. Remember that our summer classes start in May before the high school year ends. Some general education courses, such as ENG 111, are offered as [Dual Enrollment](#) (students earn both high school and college credit) in many high schools.
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- What classes should I take first and in what order, before getting into the program? Should I take each course one at a time or can I take more than one?
 - This will depend upon your ability and the demands upon your time. The science classes tend to be the hardest. You will build a base with College Success Skills, with the English, Psychology, computer course and Basic Human Biology.
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- Will I be able to work and go to school at the same time?
 - It can be done, but it is not highly recommended.
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- How many credits are required for the program?
 - 49 credits
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- Will my credits help me and be transferable if and when I go for my ADN?
 - Yes!
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- If I have a GED can I still be accepted into the nursing program?

- o Yes!

- Where will my clinicals take place?
 - o Alberta: Various clinical agencies in South Hill, Emporia, Clarksville and Burkeville.

 - o South Boston: Various clinical agencies in South Boston, Clarksville and Farmville.

- If I miss a semester for some reason may I come back into the program?
 - o Yes, if you do not stay out for longer than one year.

- What does my grade point average have to be to stay in the program?
 - o 2.0

- How much does this program cost?
 - o An approximate cost in addition to Tuition/Fees and subject to change is about \$4505 (books, uniforms, testing fees, medical exam, background check, licensure exam and fees after graduation). College tuition and fees are \$161.61/credit hour. The minimum required credits for the PN program are 49, making the tuition/fees for the entire program \$7918.89.
[Tuition/Fees](#)

- What happens if I fail a course?
 - o If you withdraw from or fail a course one time, you may retake the course. You will need approval by the Admissions Office with input from the PN Director and faculty of the school attended before being officially readmitted. Once approved, you may be readmitted to the nursing class on a space available basis, after all other qualified applicants have been accepted.

- How much of my life do I have to give up while in nursing school?
 - o There are at least 16 hours of homework (reading, preparing for clinical) per week for PNE 161, PNE 162, PNE 173, and PNE 163. This does not include library time or driving time. Clinical experience may require you to visit the clinical site the day before to receive your assignment and prepare for giving safe and competent care the next day.

- How much will I need to study?
 - About 12 hours per week for the major practical nursing courses: PNE 161, PNE 162, PNE 173, and PNE 163.

 - How many different teachers will I have?
 - You'll have a different teacher for almost all of the general education courses; you will have a minimum of 3-4 nursing instructors, counting clinical instructors and classroom/lecture instructors.

 - How long are the lectures?
 - 1-4 hours per session with breaks during longer sessions.

 - If I miss a required day am I able to make it up?
 - If it is excused by the nursing instructor prior to the absence.

 - What extra money do we have to anticipate spending?
 - Some expenses to consider are: gas, car repair, food, pens, paper supplies, and babysitting fees to name a few.

 - What costs are required?
 - You may spend up to \$4500 or more on uniforms, nursing books, and other expenses. See "Costs of the Practical Nursing Program" under "Important Links"

 - How many times may I take the pre-PN Entrance Exam? (ATI TEAS, 7th Edition)
 - This test may be taken 3 times in an admission cycle. If you are not successful the first time, consider reaching out to our [tutoring center](#) for assistance.

 - What if I've had a lot of traffic tickets?
 - Minor traffic offenses are not a problem. However, if you've been convicted of other criminal offenses you need to confidentially speak with the head of the program. Our facilities require criminal background checks and will not allow those with prior convictions to work in their facility. However, this does not prevent you from attending the nursing school program. However, to pass the clinical courses, you must be able to attend clinical. Once you have completed the program, the Board of Nursing will review your case individually and decide if you will be allowed to obtain a license to practice nursing.
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