

Southern University at Shreveport School of Nursing



Practical Nursing Program Information Packet

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Southern University at Shreveport
School of Nursing
Practical Nursing Program

The Practical Nursing program has full approval by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSBPNE): 131 Airline Drive, Suite 301, Metairie, LA 70001-6266 (504-838-5791).

Purpose

The SUSLA School of Nursing practical nursing program educates individuals to become competent licensed practical nurses. The mission of the nursing program is to provide a quality nursing education to students that will prepare them with the knowledge and skills to competently practice basic nursing. The practical nursing program is designed to provide the foundation for further preparation in nursing and lifelong learning. The program prepares a practical nurse for beginning level practice using knowledge derived from the liberal arts, biological sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, and behavioral sciences. Students are exposed to the types of experiences that facilitate growth of the total person, while allowing them to practice in a variety of health care settings. Students are eligible to apply to write the National Council Licensure Exam-PN.

Program Goals

The goals of the Practical Nursing program exemplify the mission, goals and objectives of Southern University at Shreveport. The nursing program is designed to provide:

1. An accessible program which recognizes and is sensitive to the needs of a diverse population,
2. A foundation that will enhance career development,
3. Learning opportunities that recognize the importance of communication between health care professionals and the client population,
4. Learning experiences that teach the management of health problems through knowledge and use of health care resources,
5. Interactive experiences with culturally, racially, socio-economically, and ethnically diverse populations which will enhance the development of skills and strategies necessary to provide appropriate levels of care to differing populations,
6. Collegial relationships which foster learning through a strong student-faculty alliance,
7. An interactive environment which encourages critical thinking and the development of problem solving skills necessary to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing health care system,
8. A foundation for transition into a registered nursing program.

Program Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the Practical Nursing Program at Southern University at Shreveport students should be able to:

1. Systematically collect patient data,

2. Assist the Registered Nurse with formulating and implementing plans of care for clients that are consistent with the realities, experiences, and values held by diverse populations,
3. Provide therapeutic interventions developed through collaborative partnerships with clients and members of the healthcare team utilizing the nursing process,
4. Under the supervision of a Registered Nurse, Licensed Physician, or Dentist, manage health care problems and health care resources utilizing principles from leadership theory and Maslow's Theory,
5. Utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills to meet the challenges of contemporary and future care needs of clients in a dynamic, rapidly changing society,
6. Provide education to a client base in response to society's health care needs, thereby supporting clients' growth and development along the wellness-illness continuum,
7. Be individually responsible and accountable for their own scope of nursing practice,
8. Demonstrate respect for self and others,
9. Advance practical nursing as a profession by participation in professional organizations, community involvement, and political awareness and action,
10. Demonstrate skills and knowledge that facilitate the use of technology,
11. Effectively implement comprehensive therapeutic communication skills, both written and verbal, when interacting with clients, significant support persons, and members of the health care team.

Admission Requirements

All individuals will be afforded equal opportunity for admission and progression in the practical nursing program. Southern University at Shreveport assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or veteran's status. This policy is in accordance with the following:

Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
Executive Order 11246, as Amended
Revised Order Number 4
The Vietnam Era Veteran's Rehabilitation Act of 1974
Title VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 –Age Discrimination of Employment Act of 1975
Louisiana Executive Order 13
Louisiana Civil Service Law
American's with Disabilities Act of 1990

For individuals with disabilities, reasonable accommodations will be made to policies, practices, or procedures as necessary to achieve course objectives, when there is no risk to client safety. If reasonable accommodations are requested and not received, the student has the right to file a grievance with the Dean and the University if said student believes that he/she has been treated in a discriminatory manner. The student reserves the right to refuse any offered accommodations.

A candidate for the Practical Nursing Program must possess abilities and skills in the following categories: observation, communication, motor and behavioral modes. The examples cited below do not constitute an exhaustive list.

1. Observation: A candidate must be able to observe a patient/client accurately. Examples of observation may include listening to heart and breath sounds, visualizing the appearance of a surgical wound, detecting the presence of a foul odor, and palpating an abdomen.
 - A. Hearing
 - B. Vision
 - C. Tactile
 - D. Smell
2. Communication: A candidate must be able to communicate effectively with patients/clients and other members of the health care team. The student must be able to interact with clients/patients and other members of the health care team in order to obtain information, describe patient status, and perceive verbal and non-verbal communication.
 - A. Interpersonal abilities
 - B. Communication abilities
3. Motor: A candidate must have adequate gross and fine motor function sufficient to effectively work with nursing problems and issues, and carry out related nursing care. Physical abilities should be such that an individual may enter, leave and move about a room without difficulty; and maneuver in small spaces. Examples of nursing care include ambulating and positioning patients; the performance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation; the administration of intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous and oral medications; the application of pressure to stop bleeding; the opening of an obstructed airway; and the provision of client daily hygiene.
 - A. Physical abilities
 - B. Gross motor abilities
 - C. Fine motor abilities
4. Behavioral: A candidate must possess the emotional health required for total utilization of his/her intellectual abilities. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively in stressful situations. They must be capable of adapting to ever-changing environments, displaying flexibility in appropriately interacting with others, and learning to function in uncertain situations that are inherent in clinical situations involving clients. The ability to critically think is essential.

Evaluation for Admission into a Practical Nursing Program

1. Have you ever had any application for any professional or occupational license or certification refused or denied or have you ever been refused or denied the privilege of taking any examination required for occupational licensure or certification by any professional or occupational authority?
2. Have you ever been dropped, suspended, placed on probation, expelled, fined or asked to resign from any post-secondary educational program in which you were enrolled?
3. Have you ever been placed on probation, restrictions, suspension, revocation, modification, allowed to resign, requested to have leave temporarily or permanently, or otherwise acted against by any professional or occupational training program prior to completing the training?

4. Have you ever been the subject of disciplinary action and/or sanctioned with regard to any professional or occupational license or certification, and/or have you ever voluntarily surrendered any professional or occupational license or certification?
5. Have you ever had any unresolved or pending complaints against you with any professional or occupational authority, or any employer, or an employing facility; or any staff of an employing facility; or have you ever voluntarily or involuntarily resigned or withdrawn from any employment, or other association in order to avoid imposition of such measures?
6. Do you have any unresolved or pending complaints against you with any professional or occupational licensing or certifying agency, association, employer, or employing facility?
7. Have you ever been court martialled or discharged other than honorably from the armed services?
8. Have you ever been terminated or allowed to resign in lieu of termination from any position with any city, state or federal agency?
9. Have you been diagnosed with, do you, or have you had a medical, physical, mental, emotional or psychiatric condition (including substance abuse) that might affect your ability to safely practice as a student practical nurse or a licensed practical nurse?
10. Have you ever been indicted, charged with, summoned into court as a defendant in a criminal proceeding, arrested (even if you were not taken away in handcuffs or incarcerated), fined, imprisoned, placed on probation or ordered to deposit bail for the violation of any law, police regulation or ordinance, misdemeanor and/or felony offense (except for minor traffic violations) whether or not charges were dismissed and/or refused; or have you ever been convicted (including a nolo contendere plea or guilty plea) of any criminal (misdemeanor and or/or felony)?

Eligibility

Students seeking regular admission must submit a completed application. Admission dates vary due to the length of the program. All students considered for admission to the Practical Nursing program are required to complete a Louisiana State Board of Practical Nursing (LSBPNE) approved admission test, achieving a designated score. No waiting list will be maintained.

Approved Admission Test	Math Score	Reading Score	Language Score
TABE	12.0	12.0	12.0
ACT	18	20	17
ACCUPLACER - <i>Classic</i>	48 (Elem. Algebra)	65 (Reading Comp)	74 (Sentence Skills)
ACCUPLACER – <i>Next Generation</i>	243 Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra & Statistics (QAS)	250 Reading Comp	241 Writing
ASSET	42	44	42
COMPASS	55 (Pre-Algebra) 33 (Algebra)	85	70

In addition to the above LSBPNE approved tests, students will also be required to complete the National League for Nursing Pre-Admission Exam (PAX). Admission of qualified students will be based on scores on the PAX exam. The highest PAX scores will be offered admission to the program. If there is more than one student qualifying for the last position the scores on subject areas (English, Mathematics, Reading,) of the exam will be used. Scores on the Reading sub-test

will be the first score used. If scores are equal, mathematics, and Language scores will be used, respectively.

Other requirements include:

1. Submission of a completed application to the School of Nursing Practical Nursing Program
2. Certification of high school graduation or GED completion
3. Copy of Birth Certificate or valid US passport
4. Completed one of the LSPBNE approved admission tests
5. Submission of a completed health form
6. Verification of CPR certification

Transfer from Southern University at Shreveport's Registered Nursing Program to the Licensed Practical Nursing Program

The program has developed a policy that provides for unique opportunities for students matriculating in a registered nursing program to enter the Practical Nursing program. Students may request advanced standing upon enrollment in the practical nursing program.

Transfer of students from a Program of Practical Nursing

Students requesting transfer with advanced standing from a program of practical nursing are required to have successfully completed equivalent courses with a passing score of 80%. Students may be required to show proficiency in coursework by taking an exam and performing a skills competency review.

Transfer of Students from a Registered Nursing Program

Students requesting transfer from a registered nursing program outside of Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) must meet the same requirements as SUSLA students. Entry points as designated for SUSLA students will apply. However, SUSLA students will be given priority in the point rating system.

Progression

To progress in the practical nursing program, students must

1. Maintain a Southern University at Shreveport overall grade point average of 2.0 or higher,
2. Earn a grade of "C" or percentile score of 80% or better in each required course. A student will be dropped from the program if an 80% is not achieved in didactic and clinical courses.
3. Completed annual health form.
4. Evidence of current CPR certification before the start of class.

Dropped from the Program

1. Upon reasonable suspicion that any of the following have occurred, a student will be immediately dropped from the School of Nursing:
 - A. Academic cheating

- B. Plagiarism
- C. Unauthorized possession of examinations
- D. Falsification of patient or agency records
- E. Falsification of Southern University documents and Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
- F. Illegal possession, sale use or distribution of drugs
- G. Illegal possession of weapons
- H. Theft
- I. Any other activity that is incompatible with professional behavior as delineated by Practical Nursing Professional and Occupational Standards.

The drop may be appealed to the Committee on Academic and Professional Standards within the School of Nursing. A recommendation will be made by the committee to the full faculty, whom will make a final determination by a majority vote. The determination by the faculty is binding within the School of Nursing.

- 2. A student will be dropped from the practical nursing program when:
 - A. Earning a failing grade in a course.
 - B. Withdrawing from a course.
 - C. Continuing to demonstrate a lack of professional compatibility
 - D. Being denied approval by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
 - E. Failing to declare criminal charges, arrests or convictions that occur which matriculating in the program
 - F. Deemed ineligible to continue by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

Exceptions

Students have the right to request an exception to any of the School of Nursing policies. Letters of exception are submitted to the Academic and Professional Standards Committee. After consideration, the Committee submits its recommendation to the faculty for a final decision.

Evaluation of Students

Standardized exams will be administered in each clinical course. The Practical Nursing Program will use the grading scale below in the evaluation of student performance in didactic courses. Students must earn a final score of 80% or better to earn a passing grade in the didactic component of each clinical course, as well as its clinical companion course. A student successfully completing theory but failing clinical shall repeat both the didactic and clinical courses. All courses with a theory and clinical component must be taught concurrently.

Six Point Grading Scale

The Practical Nursing Program uses a 6 point grading scale in the evaluation of students. The manner in which the scale is used is demonstrated below.

94-100	A
87-93	B
80-86	C

Other expectations:

Students admitted to the practical nursing program will be expected to:

1. Have access to a reliable vehicle for transportation to and from the clinical site.
2. Assume the cost of travel to and from the clinical site.
3. Assume any liability associated with travel to and from the clinical site.

Pre-Admission Exam Requirements

The National League for Nursing Pre-Admission Exam is a requirement for consideration for admission to the Practical Nursing Program. It “assists in admission decisions by providing a reliable, common basis for evaluating students’ academic ability.” It “tests basic verbal, math, and science skills at the high school level.” The exam is used as an indicator of an individual’s potential for success in the program. The composite score range for the exam is 0-200. A composite score of 120 is required for consideration for admission into the program. The cost of the examination is the responsibility of the applicant and will vary depending on the cost to the University. For more information: www.nln.org.

Institutional Affiliations

Brentwood Behavioral Health
 University Health
 Pilgrim Manor Guest Care
 Shreveport Manor Guest Care
 Willis Knighton Health System

Christus Schumpert Health System
 Magnolia Manor Nursing and Rehab Center
 LifeCare Hospital of Shreveport

Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid provides a comprehensive financial aid program to assist students whose family resources are insufficient to meet the costs of college education. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for information on how to apply.

The following are some of the aid programs that the Office of Financial Aid administers:

Federal Aid

Pell grant
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
Leveraging educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program
Veteran's Benefits
Vocational Rehabilitation
Federal Student Loans
Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Employment

Federal Work Study Program
Scholarships and Awards
Academic Scholarship
Joan Garner Memorial Scholarship
Thelma Fisher Patterson Memorial Scholarship
Louisiana Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)
Private Scholarships
Financial Aid for Summer Terms
Satisfactory Academic Progress
Pell Grant
WIA Funding

**Southern University at Shreveport
Licensed Practical Nursing Program**

Curricular Layout

Courses in the curriculum are arranged such that progression is from simple to complex. There are 745 scheduled contact hours designated for theory and 800 for clinical.

<u>Semester I</u>		<u>Clock</u>	<u>Credit **</u>
NURP 110S:	Fundamentals of Nursing I	75	2
NURP 111S:	Fundamentals of Nursing I Clinical	150	4
NURP 108S:	Microbiology	10	.25
NURP 105S:	Nutrition	45	1
NURP 140S:	Geriatric Nursing I	40	1
NURP 141S:	Geriatric Nursing I Clinical	40	1
SBIO 221S:	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	45	3
NURP 218S	Vocational Adjustments	20	<u>.5</u>
			12.75
<u>Semester II</u>			
NURP 120S:	Fundamentals of Nursing II	75	2
NURP 121S:	Fundamentals of Nursing II Clinical	150	4
NURP 102S:	Personal, Family and Community Health	10	.25
NURP 130S:	Pharmacology I	35	1
NURP 150S:	Geriatric Nursing II	40	1
NURP 151S:	Geriatric Nursing II Clinical	40	1
SBIO 222S:	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	45	<u>3</u>
			12.25
<u>Semester III</u>			
NURP 204S:	Med-Surg Nursing I	60	2
NURP 205S:	Med-Surg Nursing I Clinical	150	4
NURP 200S:	Pharmacology II	35	1
NURP 208S:	Mental Health Nursing	40	1
NURP 209S:	Mental Health Nursing Clinical	40	<u>1</u>
			9
<u>Semester IV</u>			
NURP 210S:	Med-Surg Nursing II	75	2
NURP 211S:	Med-Surg Nursing II Clinical	150	4
NURP 222S:	Pediatric Nursing	40	1
NURP 223S:	Pediatric Nursing Clinical	40	1
NURP 230S:	Obstetrical Nursing	40	1
NURP 231S:	Obstetrical Nursing Clinical	40	1
NURP 215S:	Career Readiness	15	<u>.25</u>
			10.5
 Total		 1545	 44.25