

PRACTICAL NURSING

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) help care for sick, injured, and disabled people. They administer medications; monitor equipment; change dressings; prepare food trays; feed, bathe, massage, and dress patients; maintain patients' charts; and take vital signs and pulse rates. Private-duty LPNs care for a single patient in the home or hospital.

The Practical Nursing program prepares students to give competent nursing care and to take the state board examination for licensure as practical nurses. The program accomplishes this preparation through a selected number of academic and occupational courses providing a variety of techniques and materials necessary to assist students in acquiring the needed knowledge and skills to give competent care. Program faculty plan extensive supervised clinical experiences at area hospitals and extended care facilities to integrate theory and practice under the guidance of clinical instructors. The Practical Nursing program is offered only on the Elbert County Campus.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE OPTION

Individuals who are graduates of, or eligible to graduate from, this diploma program and who meet general admission requirements for associate-degree level work may pursue an associate of applied science degree in Health by completing an additional 50 quarter credit hours of coursework. Interested students should see their advisors to obtain assistance in completing processes associated with readmission and/or change of major. Practical nurses with a current, valid Georgia license and at least two years of work experience as an LPN may wish to become registered nurses through the completion of either the generic associate degree program in Nursing (ADN) or the bridge program (see *Accelerated Option* in the curriculum information on the Nursing (ADN) program).

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

For admission and progression, all candidates for nursing must meet intellectual, physical, and social core performance standards necessary to provide safe patient care in an independent manner. The areas discussed in this section include examples of the abilities and skills necessary to provide safe, competent care to the patients for whom students will provide care. The following necessary activities and skills are not all-inclusive.

- **Essential Function: Critical Thinking**
Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment

Examples

- Identifying cause/effect relationships in clinical situations
- Developing care plans
- Transferring knowledge from one situation to another

- Evaluating outcomes
- Problem solving
- Prioritizing
- Using short- and long-term memory

- **Essential Function: Interpersonal**
Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds

Examples

- Establishing rapport with patients, families, and colleagues
- Negotiating interpersonal conflict
- Respecting cultural diversity

- **Essential Function: Communication**
Communication abilities sufficient to interact with others

Examples

- Explaining treatment procedures
- Initiating health teaching
- Documenting and interpreting nursing actions and patient responses
- Preparing written reports and oral reports for other healthcare professionals

- **Essential Function: Mobility**
Physical abilities sufficient for movement from room to room and in small spaces

Examples

- Moving around a patient's room, work spaces, and treatment areas
- Administering cardiopulmonary procedures such as resuscitation
- Sitting or standing and maintaining balance for long periods
- Twisting, bending, and stooping throughout the day
- Moving quickly in response to possible emergencies
- Pushing, pulling, lifting, or supporting a dependent adult patient
- Squeezing with hands and fingers
- Performing repetitive movements

- **Essential Function: Motor Skills**
Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe, effective nursing care

Examples

- Calibrating and using equipment
- Positioning dependent adult patients
- Grasping and manipulating small objects and instruments

- Using a computer keyboard
- Writing with a pen

- **Essential Function: Hearing**

Auditory ability sufficient for monitoring and assessing health needs

Examples

- Hearing monitor and pump alarms, emergency signals, fire alarms, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help

- **Essential Function: Visual**

Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care

Examples

- Observing patient responses such as respiratory rate and depth, skin color, and other physical signs
- Seeing and reading monitors, watches with second hands, medication labels and vials, and increments on a medication syringe
- Seeing objects from 20 inches to 20 feet away
- Using depth perception and peripheral vision
- Distinguishing colors
- Reading written documents

- **Essential Function: Tactile**

Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment

Examples

- Performing palpation, functions of physical examinations (such as the discrimination of pulses and detection of temperature), and functions related to therapeutic intervention (such as the insertion of a catheter)

- **Essential Function: Emotional**

Emotional stability sufficient to tolerate rapidly changing conditions and environmental stress

Examples

- Establishing therapeutic interpersonal boundaries
- Providing patients with emotional support
- Adapting to changing conditions in the work environment and stress level
- Dealing with unexpected or unpredictable events
- Maintaining focus on task
- Performing multiple tasks concurrently
- Being able to handle strong emotions

PROGRAM EXPENSES

The recent reauthorization of the Higher Education Act requires all colleges and universities to notify students and prospective students of all program costs for which they will be responsible. Students will be responsible for the following expenses:

- Quarterly tuition (\$45 per credit hour)
- Quarterly student activity fees (\$16)

- Quarterly registration fee (\$26)
- Quarterly accident insurance fee (\$4)
- Quarterly instructional and technology supply fee (\$35)
- Admissions placement examination (\$60)
- Background check and drug screen (Approximately \$85 per required check)
- Basic cardiac life support certification (\$40)
- Hepatitis B Immunizations (\$200)
- Malpractice insurance (\$11 per year)
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) application fee (\$200)
- NCLEX-PN licensure examination (\$200)
- NSG 110 supply kit (\$45)
- State Board licensure application fee (\$40)
- Supply Fee (Varies – See course descriptions for exact costs)
- Textbooks (Approximately \$1,550 for entire program)
- Uniforms (Approximately \$175)

The expenses are based on costs in effect at the time this catalog was published. Prices are subject to change.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates qualify for positions as entry-level practical nurses in the various areas of general patient care and specializations within hospitals, physicians' offices, nursing homes, governmental agencies, private industry, and home health care services.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Practical Nursing program utilizes a competitive admission process to select students. Program faculty and the Admissions Office staff designed the process to ensure maximum opportunity for student success in the program and on the licensure exam. The Practical Nursing program admits students once per year at the beginning of Winter Quarter. Prospective students may gain admission to the college initially as Health Care Assistant program students/applicants to Practical Nursing in order to complete any learning support classes and required general core and health core courses.

Applicants must submit all required documentation to the Admissions Office by July 1 to receive consideration in the selection process. Applicants who are on academic probation or are academically dismissed from the college as of the application deadline will not be considered for admission. Applicants not selected for the program may reapply during subsequent admission intake periods. There is no waiting list between intake periods; applicants must complete the application process for each attempt for entry into the Practical Nursing program. To receive consideration for admission to the Practical Nursing program, applicants complete the following steps by July 1:

- Submit completed and signed application for admission and a \$20 nonrefundable application fee;
- Submit official transcripts showing that applicants earned a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in high school and for all college work attempted (applicants transferring from other colleges will not

be required to submit high school transcripts if they completed 30 semester or 45 quarter credit hours at other colleges);

- c. Provide official birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, or state-issued photo identification cards to document that they are at least 17 years of age;
- d. Submit NLN Pre-admission PN Examination scores of no less than the 50th percentile that are less than five years old on the application deadline (see *Life Sciences Selective Admissions Examinations*);
- e. Submit valid COMPASS, ASSET, SAT, or ACT test scores (see *ASSET and COMPASS Placement Tests*);
- f. Submit completed and signed Intent form (blank forms are available in the Admissions Office and online at www.athenstech.edu—Select *Prospective Students* and then *Competitive Health Pgms*);
- g. Satisfactorily complete general and health core courses in English (ENG 1010), mathematics (MAT 1012), psychology (PSY 1010), anatomy and physiology (AHS 1011), and medical terminology (AHS 109) by July 1 of the year applicants are seeking admission to the program (applicants transferring from other colleges must confirm the transferability of credit for these courses with the college's director of registration and records before the July 1 application deadline); and
- h. Attend a mandatory pre-admission orientation session if invited (failure to attend or to make alternate arrangements to obtain necessary information will result in the forfeiture of admission to the program).

Applicants to this program must take the NLN examination no later than June to receive consideration in the selection process (see *Life Sciences Selective Admissions Examinations*). Applicants selected to the program must complete all general and health core courses prior to enrolling in NSG 110. Prior to beginning the first set of clinical rotations, students must have the following documents on file in the Practical Nursing Office:

- a. Basic cardiac life support certification;
- b. Verification of health and malpractice insurance (see *Malpractice Insurance*);
- c. PPD and/or chest x-ray results;
- d. Record of physical exam with physician's statement that the student is in satisfactory health;
- e. Hepatitis screen results (students should start the hepatitis-c immunization series) and documentation of immunity to varicella, rubella, measles, and tetanus; and
- f. A signed document acknowledging that commission of a felony before or during their enrollment in this program may prevent graduates from taking the licensure exam to become licensed practical nurses and that they may be required to complete drug testing and/or background checks at their own expense prior to participating in internships, practicums, or clinical activities at certain host sites for these activities (see *Drug Testing/Background Checks*) (blank documents are available from the program chair or the Admissions Office and online at www.athenstech.edu—Select *Prospective Students* and then *Competitive Health Pgms*).

PRACTICAL NURSING CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Diploma Program (Major Code: PNO4)

Credit Required for Graduation: 95 quarter credit hours

	Credits
General Core	15
ENG 1010 Fundamentals of English I	5
MAT 1012 Fundamentals of Mathematics I	5
PSY 1010 Basic Psychology	5
Health Core	14
* AHS 104 Introduction to Health Care	3
* AHS 109 Medical Terminology for Allied Health Science	3
* AHS 1011 Anatomy and Physiology	5
SCT 100 Introduction to Microcomputers	3

Practical Nursing Major		66
* AHS 102	Drug Calculation and Administration	3
* AHS 103	Nutrition and Diet Therapy	2
* NPT 112	Medical Surgical Nursing I Practicum	7
* NPT 113	Medical Surgical Nursing II Practicum	7
* NPT 212	Pediatric Nursing Practicum	2
* NPT 213	Obstetrical Nursing Practicum	3
* NPT 215	Nursing Leadership Practicum	2
* NSG 110	Nursing Fundamentals	10
* NSG 112	Medical Surgical Nursing I	9
* NSG 113	Medical Surgical Nursing II	9
* NSG 212	Pediatric Nursing	5
* NSG 213	Obstetrical Nursing	5
* NSG 215	Nursing Leadership	2

* Students must pass courses with grades of C or better.

ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCE

Department Code: AHS

AHS 102 Drug Calculation and Administration (2-2-3)

Banner Title: Drug Calculation

Students learn to use critical thinking skills and basic mathematical concepts to perform basic drug calculations and administration. Topics include systems of measurement, calculating drug problems, using resource materials, basic pharmacology, administering medications in a simulated clinical environment, principles of IV therapy techniques, and client education.

Prerequisites: AHS 1011, MAT 1012

Offered Winter term

AHS 103 Nutrition and Diet Therapy (2-0-2)

Banner Title: Nutrition and Diet Therapy

Students study the nutritional needs of the individual. Topics include nutrients, standard and modified diets, nutrition throughout the life span, and client education.

Prerequisite: Program admission

Offered quarterly

AHS 104 Introduction to Health Care (2-3-3)

Banner Title: Intro to Health Care

Instructors introduce a grouping of fundamental principles, practices, and issues common to many specializations in the health care profession. In addition to the essential skills, students explore various delivery systems and related issues. Topics include basic life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); basic emergency care, first aid, and triage; vital signs; infection control; and blood and airborne pathogens. Students must pay a

\$30 supply fee when registering for this course.

Prerequisite: ENG 097 with a grade of C or better and RDG 097 with a grade of C* or better or placement by diagnostic testing*

Offered quarterly – (Students accepted into the Practical Nursing program must take this course the Fall term immediately before the Winter term in which they begin taking the Practical Nursing (NPT and NSG) courses.)

AHS 109 Medical Terminology for Allied Health Science (3-0-3)

Banner Title: Medical Terminology for AHS

This course introduces the elements of medical terminology. Instructors place emphasis on building familiarity with medical words through knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Topics include origins (roots, prefixes, and suffixes), word building, abbreviations and symbols, terminology related to the human anatomy, reading medical orders and reports, and terminology specific to the students' programs of study.

Prerequisite: ENG 097 with a grade of C or better and RDG 097 with a grade of C* or better or placement by diagnostic testing*

Offered quarterly

AHS 1011 Anatomy and Physiology (5-0-5)

Banner Title: Anatomy and Physiology

This course focuses on the basic, normal structure and function of the human body. Instructors provide an overview of each body system, how the systems coordinate activities to maintain a balanced state, and how these systems recognize deviations

from the normal. Topics include general plan and function of the human body, integumentary system, skeletal system, muscular system, nervous and sensory systems, endocrine system, cardiovascular system, lymphatic system, respiratory system, digestive system, urinary system, and reproductive system.

Prerequisite: ENG 097 with a grade of C or better and RDG 097 with a grade of C* or better or placement by diagnostic testing*

Offered quarterly

ENGLISH

Department Code: ENG

ENG 1010 Fundamentals of English I (5-0-5)

Banner Title: Fundamentals of English I
This course emphasizes the development and improvement of written and oral communication abilities. Topics include analysis of writing techniques, applied grammar and writing skills, editing and proofreading skills, research skills, and oral presentation skills.

Prerequisites: ENG 097 with a grade of C or better and RDG 097 with a grade of C* or better or placement by diagnostic testing*

Offered quarterly

PRACTICAL NURSING PRACTICUM

Department Code: NPT

NPT 112 Medical Surgical Nursing I Practicum (0-21-7)

Banner Title: Med/Surg I Practicum

This practicum course focuses on wellness and the prevention of illness, care of the individual as a whole, and deviations from

the normal state of health. Topics include cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, urinary, and gastrointestinal systems and their associated illnesses; pharmacology; nursing procedures and techniques; diet therapy; and utilizing the nursing process.

Prerequisites: AHS 102 with a grade of C or better, AHS 103 with a grade of C or better, AHS 104 with a grade of C or better, NSG 110 with a grade of C or better

Corequisite: NSG 112
Offered Spring term

NPT 113
Medical Surgical Nursing II
Practicum (0-21-7)

Banner Title: Med/Surg Practicum II

This practicum focuses on wellness and the prevention of illness, care of the individual as a whole, and deviations from the normal state of health. Topics include oncology, musculoskeletal, neurological, and sensory systems and their associated illnesses; integumentary; pharmacology; nursing procedures and techniques; psychiatric nursing; and diet therapy.

Prerequisites: AHS 102 with a grade of C or better, AHS 103 with a grade of C or better, AHS 104 with a grade of C or better, NPT 112 with a grade of C or better, NSG 110 with a grade of C or better, NSG 112 with a grade of C or better

Corequisite: NSG 113
Offered Summer term

NPT 212
Pediatric Nursing
Practicum (0-6-2)

Banner Title: Pediatric Nursing Practicum

The pediatric nursing practicum focuses on health management and maintenance, prevention of illness, care of the individual as a whole, and deviations from the normal state of health. The definition of client care includes using the nursing process, performing assessments, using critical thinking, and providing client education. Topics include care, treatments, pharmacology, medication administration, and diet therapy of pediatric clients; growth and development; and standard precautions.

Prerequisites: AHS 102 with a grade of C or better, AHS 103 with a grade of C or better, AHS 104 with a grade of C or better, NSG 110 with a grade of C or better

Corequisites: NPT 213, NPT 215, NSG 212, NSG 213, NSG 215
Offered Fall term

NPT 213
Obstetrical Nursing
Practicum (0-9-3)

Banner Title: Obstetrical Nursing Practicum

The definition of client care includes using the nursing process, performing assessments, using critical thinking, and providing client education. Topics include health management and maintenance and prevention of illness; care of the individual as a whole; and deviations from the normal state of health in the reproductive system, obstetric clients, and the newborn. Topics include client care, treatments, pharmacology, medication administration, standard precautions, and diet therapy related to the reproductive system, obstetric clients, and the newborn.

Prerequisites: AHS 102 with a grade of C or better, AHS 103 with a grade of C or better, AHS 104 with a grade of C or better, NSG 110 with a grade of C or better

Corequisites: NPT 212, NPT 215, NSG 212, NSG 213, NSG 215
Offered Fall term

NPT 215
Nursing Leadership
Practicum (0-6-2)

Banner Title: Nursing Leadership Practicum

Students develop skills necessary for successful performance in the job market. Topics include leadership skills, management skills, diet therapy, and employability skills.

Prerequisites: AHS 102 with a grade of C or better, AHS 103 with a grade of C or better, AHS 104 with a grade of C or better, NPT 112 with a grade of C or better, NPT 113 with a grade of C or better, NSG 112 with a grade of C or better, NSG 113 with a grade of C or better

Corequisite: NSG 212, NSG 213, NSG 215, NPT 212, NPT 213
Offered Fall term

MATHEMATICS

Department Code: MAT

MAT 1012
Foundations of
Mathematics (5-0-5)

Banner Title: Foundations of Mathematics

This course emphasizes the mathematical skills that can be applied to the solution of occupational and technical problems.

Topics include properties of numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, ratios and proportions, measurement and conversions, formula manipulation, technical applications, and basic statistics.

Prerequisite: MAT 097 with a grade of C or better or placement by diagnostic testing*

Offered quarterly

PSYCHOLOGY

Department Code: PSY

PSY 1010
Basic Psychology (5-0-5)

Banner Title: Basic Psychology

This course presents the basic principles of human behavior and their application to everyday life and work. Topics include an introduction to psychology; social environments; communications and group processes; personality; emotions and motives; conflicts, stress, and anxiety; perception and learning; life span development; and abnormal psychology.

Prerequisites: ENG 097 with a grade of C or better and RDG 097 with a grade of C* or better or placement by diagnostic testing*

Offered quarterly

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department Code: SCT

SCT 100
Introduction to
Microcomputers (1-4-3)

Banner Title: Intro to Microcomputers

This course introduces the fundamental concepts and operations necessary to use microcomputers. Course content emphasizes basic functions and familiarity with computer use. Topics include computer terminology and an introduction to the Windows environment, networking, word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, and databases.

Prerequisite: Provisional admission
Offered quarterly