



**South Carolina Department of Education – Health Science  
Pathway to PRACTICAL NURSING 5520**

Program objectives are achievable in an eighteen month course of study, consisting of two nine month segments (Phase I and Phase II) that correspond with the public school calendar. Classes begin annually in August.

**Sample Class Schedule:**

**Phase I – Classroom- Monday – Friday 8:30AM - 11:10AM**

**Phase II- Classroom - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (or 3 days a week) 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM.**

**Phase II – Clinical - Tuesday and Thursday (or two days a week) 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM.**

The program consists of a total of 1496 clock hours, of which 447 are clinical and/or lab hours. College credit hours given for any of the courses would be up to the individual schools to articulate that between their high school or career center and one of the technical or community colleges in their area. College articulation is not a necessary part of offering the program at your school. If your school chooses to have a private school for the Practical Nurse pathway, and offer both phase I and phase II, then they would seek approval from the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation as well as any required accreditation agencies. On the other hand, should your school work out an articulation agreement with a technical or community college, you have the option of your students completing only phase I at your high school or career center, then transferring to the local college to complete phase II.

The goal of the practical nurse pathway is to provide quality nursing education, incorporating professional work ethics, to meet the changing needs of healthcare. Most all graduates find jobs working in long term care facilities and physician's offices. Some practical nurses use this diploma as a stepping stone to continuing to advance their education in the nursing field, while working their way through college in a solid job field.

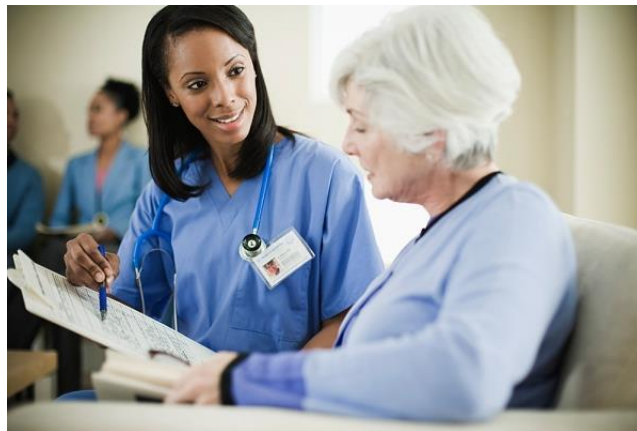
The SC Department of Education supports the Practical Nursing Pathway through their Health Science Career Cluster. This pathway reflects ideas and suggestions reflected in the profile of a South Carolina Graduate.

<https://ed.sc.gov/about/profile-of-sc-graduate/>

Upon successful completion of the program, the Practical Nursing graduate will be able to sit for their LPN-NCLEX exam for licensing.

**The graduated Practical Nurse should be able to:**

1. Integrate **critical thinking** to assist with assessing, planning, intervening, and evaluating the needs of all persons.
2. Demonstrate the ability to **communicate** and interact effectively and appropriately with all persons involved in the nursing process.
3. Demonstrate ethical and **professional behaviors** according to the established legal and ethical standards for a licensed practical nurse as defined by the South Carolina Board of Nursing Scope of Practice for the practical nurse.
4. Utilize the knowledge and skills necessary to make decisions regarding the management of nursing care to achieve the optimal health status for patients and others involved in the nursing process. **(Management)**
5. Provide **evidenced-based, clinically competent, culturally sensitive nursing care** in order to promote and assist with the maintenance of the health of all persons.
6. Incorporate the **principles of teaching/learning** in the care of the patient to facilitate achieving and/or maintaining optimal health.



**Guidelines for Admission**

**Guidelines for admission may vary slightly from school to school.** In general the guidelines below are basic guidelines used for entry into the program. Some schools may have additional requirements for admission.

1. Completed application and payment of application fee
2. Acceptable scores on pre-entrance tests. These tests must have been taken within the last 12 months of the student's first day of admission to the program.
3. A satisfactory personal interview with the Coordinator.
4. Receipt of the following: birth certificate, high school transcript (and GED if applicable), name change documents (marriage license, divorce papers), health forms

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(physical exam, immunization documentation). **High school students must be entering grade 12 and have a letter of recommendation from the guidance counselor.**

5. Criminal background check that is acceptable to the clinical facilities. Criminal offenses that are not acceptable include any related to child or adult abuse, neglect or mistreatment and may include other offenses as determined by the facility.

6. Payment of all fees. (Program costs may vary per school.)

**Sample Fee Schedule:**

	<b>In-county</b>	<b>Out-of-county</b>
Tuition per semester	\$1500	\$1800
Books per year:	\$500-600	\$500-600
Uniforms:	\$400	\$400
Miscellaneous per year:	Phase I = \$200 Phase II = \$300	Phase I = \$200 Phase II = \$300



**Sample CURRICULUM GUIDE**

**PHASE I**

**Semester # 1**  
Fundamentals of Nursing I  
Anatomy & Physiology

**Semester # 2**  
Fundamentals of Nursing II  
Nutrition & Diet Therapy  
Nurses Math

**PHASE II**

**Semester # 1**  
Medical-Surgical Nursing I  
Pharmacology I  
Maternal-Newborn Nursing

**Semester # 2**  
Medical Surgical Nursing II  
Pharmacology II  
Pediatric Nursing

Resources:

<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/>

<http://www.acenursing.org/>

<https://www.marion.k12.sc.us/domain/1137>

<https://ed.sc.gov/>

## **Standards of Practice and Educational Competencies of Graduates of Practical/Vocational Nursing Programs**

These standards and competencies are intended to better define the range of capabilities, responsibilities, rights and relationship to other health care providers for scope and content of practical/vocational nursing education programs.

### **The guidelines will assist:**

1. Educators in development, implementation, and evaluation of practical, vocational nursing curricula.
2. Students in understanding expectations of their competencies upon completion of the educational program.
3. Prospective employers in appropriate utilization of the practical/vocational nurse.
4. Consumers in understanding the scope of practice and level of responsibility of the practical/vocational nurse.

### **A. Professional Behaviors**

Professional behaviors, within the scope of nursing practice for a practical/vocational nurse, are characterized by adherence to standards of care, accountability for one's own actions and behaviors, and use of legal and ethical principles in nursing practice. Professionalism includes a commitment to nursing and a concern for others demonstrated by an attitude of caring. Professionalism also involves participation in life long self-development activities to enhance and maintain current knowledge and skills for continuing competency in the practice of nursing for the LP/VN, as well as individual, group, community and societal endeavors to improve health care. ***Upon completion of the practical/vocational nursing program the graduate will display the following program outcome: Demonstrate professional behaviors of accountability and professionalism according to the legal and ethical standards for a competent licensed practical/vocational nurse.***

### **Competencies which demonstrate this outcome has been attained:**

1. Comply with the ethical, legal, and regulatory frameworks of nursing and the scope of practice as outlined in the LP/VN nurse practice act of the specific state in which licensed.
2. Utilize educational opportunities for lifelong learning and maintenance of competence.
3. Identify personal capabilities and consider career mobility options.
4. Identify own LP/VN strengths and limitations for the purpose of improving nursing performance.
5. Demonstrate accountability for nursing care provided by self and/or directed to others.
6. Function as an advocate for the health care consumer, maintaining confidentiality as required.

7. Identify the impact of economic, political, social, cultural, spiritual, and demographic forces on the role of the licensed practical/vocational nurse in the delivery of health care.
8. Serve as a positive role model within healthcare settings and the community.
9. Participate as a member of a practical/vocational nursing organization.

## **B. Communication**

Communication is defined as the process by which information is exchanged between individuals verbally, non-verbally and/or in writing or through information technology. Communication abilities are integral and essential to the nursing process. Those who are included in the nursing process are the licensed practical/vocational nurse and other members of the nursing and healthcare team, client, and significant support person(s). Effective communication demonstrates caring, compassion, and cultural awareness, and is directed toward promoting positive outcomes and establishing a trusting relationship.

***Upon completion of the practical/vocational nursing program the graduate will display the following program outcome: Effectively communicate with patients, significant support person(s), and members of the interdisciplinary health care team incorporating interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills.***

### **Competencies which demonstrate this outcome has been attained:**

1. Utilize effective communication skills when interacting with clients, significant others, and members of the interdisciplinary health care team.
2. Communicate relevant, accurate, and complete information.
3. Report to appropriate health care personnel and document assessments, interventions, and progress or impediments toward achieving client outcomes.
4. Maintain organizational and client confidentiality.
5. Utilize information technology to support and communicate the planning and provision of client care.
6. Utilize appropriate channels of communication.

## **C. Assessment**

Assessment is the collection and processing of relevant data for the purposes of appraising the client's health status. Assessment provides a holistic view of the client which includes physical, developmental, emotional, psychosocial, cultural, spiritual, and functional status. Assessment involves the collection of information from multiple sources to provide the foundation for nursing care. Initial assessment provides the baseline for future comparisons in order to individualize client care. Ongoing assessment is required to meet the client's changing needs.

***Upon completion of the practical/vocational nursing program the graduate will display the following program outcome: Collect holistic assessment data from multiple sources, communicate the data to appropriate health care providers, and evaluate client responses to interventions.***

### **Competencies which demonstrate this outcome has been attained:**

1. Assess data related to basic physical, developmental, spiritual, cultural, functional, and psychosocial needs of the client.
2. Collect data within established protocols and guidelines from various sources including client interviews, observations/measurements, health care team members, family, significant other(s), and review of health records.
3. Assess data related to the client's health status, identify impediments to client progress and evaluate response to interventions.
4. Document data collection, assessment, and communicate findings to appropriate member/s of the healthcare team.

#### **D. Planning**

Planning encompasses the collection of health status information, the use of multiple methods to access information, and the analysis and integration of knowledge and information to formulate nursing care plans and care actions. The nursing care plan provides direction for individualized care, and assures the delivery of accurate, safe care through a definitive pathway that promotes the clients and support person's(s') progress toward positive outcomes. ***Upon completion of the practical/vocational nursing program the graduate will display the following program outcome: Collaborate with the registered nurse or other members' of the health care team to organize and incorporate assessment data to plan/revise patient care and actions based on established nursing diagnoses, nursing protocols, and assessment and evaluation data.***

#### **Competencies which demonstrate this outcome has been attained:**

1. Utilize knowledge of normal values to identify deviation in health status to plan care.
2. Contribute to formulation of a nursing care plan for clients with non-complex conditions and in a stable state, in consultation with the registered nurse and as appropriate in collaboration with the client or support person(s) as well as members of the interdisciplinary health care team using established nursing diagnoses and nursing protocols.
3. Prioritize nursing care needs of clients.
4. Assist in the review and revision of nursing care plans with the registered nurse to meet the changing needs of clients.
5. Modify client care as indicated by the evaluation of stated outcomes.
6. Provide information to client about aspects of the care plan within the LP/VN scope of practice
7. Refer client as appropriate to other members of the health care team about care outside the scope of practice of the LP/VN.

#### **E. Caring Interventions**

Caring interventions are those nursing behaviors and actions that assist clients and significant others in meeting their need and the identified outcomes of the plan of care. These interventions are based on knowledge of the natural sciences, behavioral sciences, and past nursing experiences. Caring is the

“being with” and “doing for” that assists clients to achieve the desired outcomes. Caring behaviors are nurturing, protective, compassionate, and person-centered. Caring creates an environment of hope and trust where client choices related to cultural, religious, and spiritual values, beliefs, and lifestyles are respected.

***Upon completion of the practical/vocational nursing program the graduate will display the following program outcome: Demonstrate a caring and empathic approach to the safe, therapeutic, and individualized care of each client.***

**Competencies which demonstrate this outcome has been attained:**

1. Provide and promote the client’s dignity.
2. Identify and honor the emotional, cultural, religious, and spiritual influences on the client’s health.
3. Demonstrate caring behaviors toward the client and significant support person(s).
4. Provide competent, safe, therapeutic and individualized nursing care in a variety of settings.
5. Provide a safe physical and psychosocial environment for the client and significant other(s).
6. Implement the prescribed care regimen within the legal, ethical, and regulatory framework of practical / vocational nursing practice.
7. Assist the client and significant support person(s) to cope with and adapt to stressful events and changes in health status.
8. Assist the client and significant other(s) to achieve optimum comfort and functioning.
9. Instruct client regarding individualized health needs in keeping with the licensed practical/vocational nurse’s knowledge, competence, and scope of practice.
10. Recognize client’s right to access information and refer requests to appropriate person(s).
11. Act in an advocacy role to protect client rights.

**F. Managing**

Managing care is the effective use of human, physical, financial, and technological resources to achieve the client identified outcomes while supporting organizational outcomes. The LP/VN manages care through the processes of planning, organizing and directing. ***Upon completion of the practical/vocational nursing program, the graduate will display the following program outcome: Implement patient care, at the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist through performance of nursing interventions or directing aspects of care, as appropriate, to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP).***

**Competencies which demonstrate this outcome has been attained:**

1. Assist in the coordination and implementation of an individualized plan of care for clients and significant support person(s)

2. Direct aspects of client care to qualified UAPs commensurate with abilities and level of preparation and consistent with the state's legal and regulatory framework for the scope of practice for the LP/VN.
3. Supervise and evaluate the activities of UAPs and other personnel as appropriate within the state's legal, and regulatory framework for the scope of practice for the LP/VN as well as facility policy.
4. Maintain accountability for outcomes of care directed to qualified UAPs.
5. Organize nursing activities in a meaningful and cost effective manner when providing nursing care for individuals or groups.
6. Assist the client and significant support person(s) to access available resources and services.
7. Demonstrate competence with current technologies.
8. Function within the defined scope of practice for the LP/VN in the health care delivery system at the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician, or dentist.

***As approved and adopted by NAPNES Board of Directors May 6, 2007.***

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