

What can you do with a major in Practical Nursing?

Campus(s) program is offered: North Metro campus

What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for once completely this program?

Licensed Practical Nurse LPN

What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program? What is the least?

The students enjoy the simulation labs and the “hands on” clinical experiences. The most challenging aspect about the program is trying to juggle the clinical hours and the classroom hours along with the assignments and care plans.

What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?

People are under assumption that LPNs are going to be phased out of health care. This is simply not true. The NLN has put out a professional stance regarding LPNs in the future. They are recognizing the LPN as an entrance position into the profession and have seen a tremendous increase in the need for LPNs in long-term care, hospice, and outpatient settings. The 2011 IOM report states, “The future of nursing acknowledges that licensed practical nurses are especially important to health care delivery because of their contributions to long-term care facilities, nursing homes, and community-based settings.”

What are some essential skills a student needs to have in order to be successful in program of study?

- Patience, empathy, and dedication
- Strong people skills
- Astute observation
- Flexibility
- Clear communication
- Ability to follow detailed directions
- Excellent problem solving
- Physical strength and stamina
- Ability to properly use a wide variety of equipment
- Ability to perform mathematical calculations

What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed this program?

Critical thinking, therapeutic communication skills, medication administration, injection techniques, venipuncture and IV starts, medication calculations, safe patient care, able to educate patients on their diagnoses and holistic health care, physical assessments, critical pathways, and the ability to perform other health screenings.

Typical work activities/occupational functions:

- Monitor patients’ health—for example, by checking their blood pressure
- Administer basic nursing care, including changing bandages and inserting catheters
- Provide for the basic comfort of patients, such as helping them bathe or dress

- Discuss health care with patients and listen to their concerns
- Report patients' status to registered nurses and doctors
- Keep records on patients' health

What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?

Any student desiring to go further in the field of nursing would want to take degree level prerequisites for an RN program. Along with the prerequisites, experience in the nursing field allows the LPN to smoothly transition into an RN program.

Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?

What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?

The occupational courses will transfer to any other TCSG college within the state. They do not transfer to any other colleges. However, if the student chooses to take degree level classes instead of the diploma level classes for their prerequisite, most of those credits will transfer to other SACC accredited colleges and often transfer to colleges outside the state.

Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

The graduate needs to take the NCLEX-PN. Passing this exam allows the practical nurse to become licensed. This licensure will also transfer across the nation, based on specific state guidelines. This licensure is offered through numerous testing facilities throughout the state and nation.

Possible employment settings:

Practical Nurses may work in physicians' offices, hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, hospices, governmental agencies, private industries, schools, surgical centers, urgent care facilities, or the home health care field.

Names of employers:

WellStar Health Systems Inc
 Piedmont Medical Care
 Piedmont Mountainside Hospital
 Redmond Regional Medical Center
 Rockmart Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
 Cartersville Pediatrics Associates
 Floyd Urgent Care

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