

# CLOVER PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## Practical Nurse Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **How long is the program?**

The Practical Nurse program is 4 quarters and new students start in the fall, winter and spring.

#### **How many students start each time?**

We start up to 40 students in each of these quarters.

#### **Is there a waitlist?**

No, we do not maintain a waitlist. We accept applications until we have the 40 students or until just before the quarter starts.

#### **Do I need to attend a Program Information Session as part of the application process?**

No, you do not need to attend a Program Information Session, but it is highly recommended. There will be a mandatory orientation on the first day of the quarter for all students that have been accepted into the program for that quarter.

#### **Will I still be able to start the program if I miss this mandatory orientation?**

No, if you do not attend the mandatory orientation you will not be able to start the program.

#### **Where can I find the application?**

The application is located on the college website and the link to this site is [CPTC.edu](http://CPTC.edu) on the School of Nursing page found at: [cptc.edu/programs/nursing](http://cptc.edu/programs/nursing) under "LEARN MORE". Instructions and a checklist are included in the packet.

#### **What are the dates the applications are accepted?**

Fall quarter applications: will be accepted starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and the application process will stay open until either we have filled the 40 spots or until a week before the starting of the fall quarter.

Winter quarter applications: will be accepted starting October 1<sup>st</sup> and the application process will stay open until either we have filled the 40 spots or until a week before the starting of the winter quarter.

Spring quarter applications: will be accepted starting January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the application process will stay open until either we have filled the 40 spots or until a week before the starting of the spring quarter.

### **Is the application process competitive?**

No, it is a first come first serve process. When you submit your application, it will be date/time stamped and this will be the order in which the applications will be processed.

### **When will I know when my application has been processed?**

When your application is processed an email /acceptance letter will be sent to you with your next steps for registration.

### **Can I apply for future quarter starts?**

No, you can only apply for the upcoming quarter that students are being accepted for.

### **Can I submit my application while completing a last requirement?**

No, you must have completed all of the requirements before submitting your application. Incomplete applications will be returned.

### **What is the schedule for this program?**

This is a daytime program and the schedule will vary from quarter to quarter. In the first 2 quarters you could be in class from 2.5 days a week to 5 days a week. **The schedule is not available until just before the quarter starts for each quarter that you are in the program.** Clinical rotations can be 6-12 hour shifts anytime from 5:00 am to 11 pm. Travel to some clinical rotations can be up to 50 miles away from Lakewood campus. We cannot work around your work schedule and you must follow the schedule you are given. Do not go by the class schedule printed off when you register for your courses each quarter.

### **What is the cost of this program?**

The cost of this program for a state resident is \$9,761.34 and for a non-resident it is \$17,024.20. You can find a detailed list on the [Practical Nurse Tuition and fee list](http://www.cptc.edu/sites/default/files/fee-lists/NURSING%20-%20PN.pdf) found at <http://www.cptc.edu/sites/default/files/fee-lists/NURSING%20-%20PN.pdf>.

### **Is this program covered by Financial Aid?**

Yes, financial aid does cover this program and if you are eligible for the Opportunity Grant, BFET, or Worker Retraining these funding agencies might cover it. It is important to meet the Financial Aid deadlines to receive funding.

### **Where can I purchase the textbook, workbook, and scrubs?**

These items are available in the college bookstore and can be purchased there. You can also purchase them online or from another store as long as the scrubs are the correct color (grape) and the correct edition of textbook and workbook.

### **Is this program offered in the evenings or as a part time program?**

No, this course is a full time program and only offered on weekdays. Clinical hours in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters may be an evening shift.

### **Are any courses offered online?**

No courses are offered online on a routine basis. Courses may be offered via distance learning during declared state of emergency.

### **Are there any prerequisites for this program?**

For these prerequisites you must achieve a 2.0 or better in each course and only if required for the prerequisites that require a B or better:

- CHEM&110 or higher (5CR)
- BIOL&160 or 175 (5CR)

For these prerequisites you must achieve a B or better in each course:

- BIOL& 241 Human A & P 1 w/lab (5CR)
- BIOL& 242 Human A & P II w/lab (5CR)
- BIOL& 260 Microbiology with lab (5CR)
- ENGL& 101 English Composition OR ENGL& 235 Technical Writing (5CR)
- MAT 099 Intermediate Algebra (5CR) or MATH& 141, 146, or 151
- NUTR& 101 Nutrition (5CR)
- PSYC& 100DIV General Psychology (5CR)
- PSYC& 200 Lifespan Psychology (developmental psychology) (5CR)

Must receive a passing grade:

- COLL 102 College Success (3CR) (not required if you are transferring in 30 credits, have a similar course from another college, or you hold a degree from another college)

### **Can I repeat any of these courses to obtain a B?**

Yes, there are no restrictions on how many times you can take a prerequisite course to obtain the required B.

## Will my courses expire?

No, there is no expiration for any of the prerequisites.

## I have a 2.9 in one of my prerequisites at another college. Will you accept this?

You will need to submit an official transcript to the Credential & Completion Specialist who will evaluate your transcript to determine the letter grade. You can email them at [evaluator@cptc.edu](mailto:evaluator@cptc.edu).

## Are there other requirements?

The other requirements are:

- Passing score on the NLN PAX Pre-Admission exam with a score of 102 combined score or higher
- Current American Heart Association Basic Life Support card for the Healthcare Provider
- Personal Health insurance
- “No Record On File” report for crimes against children or vulnerable adults with the Washington State Patrol and DSHS.
- Possible drug testing for clinical rotations.
- Current immunizations completed by the first day of the quarter you start the program.

## Where can I take the NLN PAX Pre-Admission exam?

The NLN PAX Admission exam is offered in the Testing Center in Building 17, Room 250 or where it is offered at other colleges or universities.

## What do I need to do to take the NLN PAX Pre-Admission exam?

Before taking the exam you will need to:

How to sign up for an exam:

- Go to the NLN site to create an account. The [National League for Nursing](https://ondemand.questionmark.com/400030/ext/nlntesting/) website at <https://ondemand.questionmark.com/400030/ext/nlntesting/>.
- **Make note of your login and password. You will need them to take the exam at the Testing Center.**
- Register for the day and time you wish to take the exam and pay the \$40.00 fee. **Print the date & time for your exam from the NLN website.** You must sign up for an exam at least 2 days before taking the exam.
- **On the day of your exam bring with you:**
  - your photo ID
  - NLN login & password information
  - the date & time document from NLN
  - student ID#

- Go to Cashier in Building 17, Room 107 and pay the testing fee of \$10.00 before going to the Testing Center located in Building 17, Room 250 to take the exam.
- You will be provided with a calculator and your scores will be available within 4 hours of taking the exam.
- If you have questions about this exam contact the Testing Center at [testing@cptc.edu](mailto:testing@cptc.edu) or call 253-589-6035.

**Can I take the exam the same day I create an account and register for an exam?**

No, you will need to register for the exam at least 2 days in advance.

**How long will I have to take the exam?**

You will have up to 2 hours and 15 minutes to complete the exam.

**What does it cover?**

There are 3 sections:

- verbal: consists of both word knowledge and reading comprehension
- math: includes basic calculations, word problems, and incorporates algebra, geometry, conversions, graphs, and applied math
- science: general biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science

**Will I be able to use a calculator for this exam?**

Yes, one will be provided for you at the testing center.

**Will my scores be available when I complete the exam?**

Your scores will be available on your NLN account 4 hours after completing the exam.

**If I do not obtain the required 102 score on the NLN PAX can I retake it?**

Yes, you may take the NLN PAX as many times as needed and with no limit on how many times you can take it to obtain the score of 102. You will need to pay for the exam each time you take it.

**If I do not score the required combined score of 102 is there any possibility of a waiver?**

There is no option of a waiver of the combined score of 102.

**Is there an expiration date for the NLN PAX exam?**

No, there is no expiration date for this exam.

**Will you take a different admission exam in place of the NLN PAX?**

No, we do not have a way to compare admission exams and will only accept the NLN PAX exam.

**Is there a study guide to the NLN PAX?**

Study guides can be purchased from the NLN site or Amazon.

**Does Clover Park offer the AHA CPR card required for the Nursing Program?**

Yes, this is offered through the college Continuing Education courses.

**Can I transfer prerequisite courses from other colleges?**

Yes, you will need to submit an official transcript and the Credential and Completion Specialist will evaluate and transfer course prerequisites into the CPTC college system

**Can I transfer Nursing Courses from a different college?**

You will need approval from the Nursing Director and you would need to provide a syllabi for each nursing courses to the Nursing Dept.

**Do I need to have all of my immunizations completed to start the program?**

Yes, you will need to have all immunizations completed by the first day of the quarter you start the program. If you have questions you can contact the Nursing Dept. at [nursingprogram@cptc.edu](mailto:nursingprogram@cptc.edu).

**Should I work while in the program?**

We recommend that you do not work if possible. If you do work, we recommend no more than 20 hours a week because of the rigor of the program. We cannot work around your work schedule.

**Is a certain grade required to continue in the program?**

Yes, you will need to complete each course with an 80% (B-) or Pass (in clinical practicum courses) to continue in the program and if you receive less than an 80% in one or more courses you will be able to re-enter the next quarter the courses you failed are offered.

**What will I need to do if I fail a class or clinical?**

You will need to retake the class in the next quarter it is offered. You will not be able to continue with the next quarter classes until this course has been successfully passed.

**If the class I failed is not offered in the next quarter can I continue on and take this class in a future quarter?** No, you must wait until this course is offered again and repeat this class. You will then take the next quarter in sequence.

**Will a background check be done for me?**

Yes, a background check will be done through CastleBranch and a state and federal check will be run. Also a background check through DSHS will be done by the facilities where you will go for clinical rotations.

**Are there disqualifying crimes that will keep me from going to clinical rotations and completing the program?**

Yes. It is WAC 388-113-0020 and the list of crimes is located on the site DSHS Secretary's List of Crimes and Negative Actions.

**I have a question about something on my background. Who can I talk to about this?**

Email questions to [nursingprogram@cptc.edu](mailto:nursingprogram@cptc.edu) for assistance.

**What is the physical activity for this program?**

This occupation requires medium physical activity and handling body fluids. Nurses are often standing for long periods of time. For safety and protection of patients, the student nurse must be able to perform basic cardiac life support (CPR), and function in stressful and/or emergency situations.

**What is the Employability Requirement for this program?**

Graduates must pass the state licensure NCLEX-PN exam and meet state eligibility requirements, including a criminal background check, in order to apply for licensure. Persons with some types of criminal convictions may not be eligible for licensure.

**I have a 10 day family vacation planned during the quarter and can I miss time for this?**

It is highly recommended that you do not miss class time during the program. This program is very rigorous and will require 3-4 hours per week per class for homework and study (e.g., 12-16 hours per week for 4 courses) in addition to actual class time. Minimum clinical hours must be met if you miss time this could result in a class or clinical failure and you will need to repeat that class in the next quarter it is offered.

**If I or a family member becomes ill while I am in the program what can I do?**

If you need an extended period of time off you can take a medical leave of absence and re-enter the program the next quarter the courses you need are offered.

**I am just starting on my education path to become a nurse. Who can help me get started?**

You can meet with an Entry Specialist in the Welcome Center located in Building 17. They will be able to answer your questions about the requirements for the program.

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