

# RCC Nursing Programs

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## Practical Nursing FAQs

### **Q: Who do I call if I want advising for the PN program?**

**A:** Email [advising@roguecc.edu](mailto:advising@roguecc.edu) where an Allied Health/Public Safety Case Manager will schedule an advising appointment with you. You may also email an Allied Health Case Manager directly by visiting the [Allied Health/Public Safety](#) web page. Or, if you are a current RCC student, you can check your MyRogue account to see who has been assigned as your advisor. If you have not yet applied for admission to RCC, have had previous transcript evaluated, or taken the RCC Placement Test, you must contact [Admissions](#).

### **Q: How do I get an application and when do I apply?**

**A:** Applications are available online usually in July. Watch the links page at the [Practical Nursing Program Information](#) page for the current application packet.

### **Q: What prerequisites are required for applying to the program?**

**A:** Applicants are required to have BI121, MTH65, PSY101, WR115, and a CNA course completed by the summer term before the September application deadline. Students who complete CNA courses/programs by the application deadline must also provide a proof of licensure by November 1 or they will be disqualified.

\*Additional preparatory credits that MUST be completed before matriculation winter term are: BI122, CIS120, and WR121.

### **Q: What are the entry requirements for the Practical Nursing Program?**

**A:** Students must pass ALL prerequisite and preparatory courses with a "C" or better. If a course is repeated, the most recent course grades are considered. Practical Nursing applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for all courses completed and be in good standing (not on academic suspension the term before application).

### **Q: What Non-Academic requirements are there for the Practical Nursing Program?**

- ♦ Mandatory orientation the first two day of the Winter term.
- ♦ Pass a criminal background check.
- ♦ Pass a 10-panel urine drug screen.
- ♦ Have a current BLS CPR card meeting the American Heart Association requirements.
- ♦ Provide proof of immunizations and TB tests that meet the Oregon Health Authorities requirements for students enrolled in higher education health care professional programs.
- ♦ Prospective students must also meet the technical standards listed on the website.  
Be fully vaccinated for COVID.

### **Q: How are students admitted to the Practical Nursing Program?**

**A:** The program is a selective entry and therefore competitive. Refer to the [Selection Point Criteria](#) document to see how points are distributed.

### **Q: When do you accept students?**

**A:** With the application deadline of September 8th, the selection process can take until late October to complete. Accepted students receive notification in November.

### **Q: What kind of time commitment can I expect the program to involve?**

**A:** The practical nursing program demands a great deal of time and requires a full-time commitment Monday through Friday. Depending on clinical availability, the clinical experience begins at 6 AM two (2) days a week and may differ for clinical groups. The lecture is generally two days a week with additional lab practice, seminars, and Simulation experiences integrated into each student's week. Outside of classroom time (approximately 10-18 hours a week), 10-16 hours per week in the practical nursing skills laboratory and at clinical practice sites (in hospitals, long-term care, and other settings), the student will spend time studying for exams, preparing assignments, and preparing clinical preparation work for patients at clinical. Clinical experiences are scheduled during the hours that LPNs typically work which could be morning, evening, or night shift. Being a Practical Nursing Student requires flexibility with schedules for students as well as families and childcare providers.

### **Q: What are some differences between the ADN (Associate Degree Nursing - prepare for the RN exam) and the PN programs?**

**A:** The major differences are in the length of time (and the courses) it takes to complete the program and in the scope of practice or responsibilities of the graduate.

- ♦ The PN program will take 9 months to complete once a student is accepted and admitted. The ADN program takes one (1) year of prerequisites and two (2) years after admission to the first nursing course.
- ♦ The PN program will graduate individuals who, after passing the NCLEX-PN and receiving a certificate are ready to care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Experienced LPNs may supervise CNAs. The ADN program prepares individuals to become registered nurses, who once licensed, will provide direct bedside care to patients or who may function in other capacities but typically also have the responsibility to plan for and manage the care of a group of patients, and may supervise the care provided by CNAs and LPNs.

**Q: What does the job market look like for LPNs?**

**A:** According to the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job market for LPNs is expanding to hospital settings but is still in high demand for skilled care or other units of nursing homes (long-term care facilities). Many LPNs work in hospital-based medical-surgical or other units, in physician offices, or residential care facilities. It is expected that nursing homes will offer the most jobs for LPNs.

**Q: I understand there is a test required before the application deadline. Is there something I can use to study for the test?**

**A:** The Practical Nursing Program requires that students take the diagnostic assessment tool before the September 8 deadline. The online exam required is the Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS). It is recommended that students create an account with ATI and utilize the study tools recommended at [ATI TEAS Prep](#).

**Q: Can I work when I am enrolled in the practical nursing program?**

**A:** The practical nursing program is an intense program with classes and clinical placements. Students may find even working part-time difficult. For many students, employment while attending school is necessary. Jobs with flexible schedules are desirable in these circumstances. Students must adjust work hours to accommodate their school schedule, and because of safety considerations cannot work immediately preceding a scheduled clinical shift.

**Q: If I complete the PN program, can I get into the ADN program and become an RN?**

**A:** The PN program is designed to produce career LPNs. However, the RCC Nursing program does have an advanced placement process in place. Interested LPNs should refer to the [LPN/RN Advanced Placement](#) web page for more information. LPNs always have the option of meeting the requirements and applying to the beginning of any nursing program.

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