



## What is a practical nurse?

The practical nurse (LPN) performs bedside clinical care and is trained in the fundamentals of biological sciences. Courses include basic nursing care, behavioral sciences, and biological sciences. Critical thinking is stressed in all phases of the practical nursing program.

Individuals who excel in this program have excellent critical thinking skills, great attention to detail, and display both compassion and confidence in their work.

## What do practical nurses do?

LPNs perform bedside nursing care in long-term care facilities, and often work as frontline managers in nursing homes and extended care facilities. The LPN works under the guidance of an RN, MD, DO, DDS, CRNA, NP, or certified Midwife to identify the nursing problems of a client and report these findings to the MD, RN, or the director of Nursing. The LPN can also administer medications, provide continuity care to the patients and residents, and is expected to reinforce teaching to clients in all areas. LPNs are encouraged to volunteer time at free clinics, the Red Cross, or other organizations of interest.

## Where do practical nurses work?

LPNs work in nursing homes, physicians' offices, schools, social service agencies, private care, travel nursing agencies, and freestanding

clinics such as urgent care facilities. An increasing number of home health and hospice agencies are using LPNs in many areas according to state regulations and Nurse Practice Acts.

## What is the employment outlook for this career?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of LPNs is expected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations, in response to the long-term care needs of an increasing elderly population and the general increase in demand for healthcare services.

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses held about 724,500 in 2016. About 36 percent of LPNs worked in nursing care facilities and another 14 percent in physicians' offices. Others worked for home healthcare services; employment services; residential care facilities; community care facilities for the elderly; outpatient care centers; and federal, state, and local government agencies (source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)).

## What are the average earnings?

Median annual wages of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses were \$45,030 in May 2017. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$32,970, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$61,030 (source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)).

## Why should I choose HCC?

The Practical Nursing Program at HCC offers educational requirements that allow students to become an LPN in 16 months. The 16-month timeframe includes general education requirements as well as practical nursing courses. The program classes are designed to allow the student to work part-time or full-time, especially on the weekends. HCC's program is recognized and accredited by the Maryland Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), formerly known as the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC).

This program is also designated as a Health Manpower Shortage Program; therefore, some residents of Maryland enrolled in this program of study on the first day of the term may be

eligible for in-county tuition rates for courses required for program completion.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program can be viewed at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer\\_pnm/51.3901-Gedt.html](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer_pnm/51.3901-Gedt.html).

## Are there any pre-admission requirements?

Students must complete the nationally normed test for nursing students known as the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). The TEAS is a scholastic aptitude assessment in the areas of math, reading, English, and science. Students will not be considered for admission to the program until they achieve the required scores on the TEAS. Applicants should consult the HCC website at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/teas](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/teas) for specific information about the TEAS, including score requirements. This requirement should be completed prior to submission of the *Supplemental Application*, but no later than the application deadline of March 15.

## What are the admission requirements?

Admission to HCC does not guarantee admission to the Division of Nursing. The requirements below must be completed and submitted to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management by the application deadline of March 15.

- Submit a completed program application known as the *Supplemental Application for the Practical Nursing Program*. Students can find the supplemental application at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/admissions/forms-documents](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/admissions/forms-documents).
- Proof of high school graduation or completion of GED with official transcripts.
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended (students taking classes at HCC do not need to submit an HCC transcript).
- Completion of BIO 203 and BIO 204 must be completed or in progress at the application deadline.
- Completion of any previously earned, required science credits within seven years prior to the application deadline.
- Completion or in progress of ENG 101
- Completion or in progress of PSY 101

- Completion or in progress of MAT 099, or eligibility for MAT 100 (MAT 101 not required)
- A grade of “C” or higher is required for all general education requirements
- A minimum cumulative grade point average for all college coursework of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Foreign educated students must have their college and high school transcripts evaluated by World Education Services (WES).
- A background check is required for all students entering the Practical Nursing Program.
- Submit TEAS scores to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management. Official TEAS scores are needed except for those taken in the HCC Testing Center.

**Are there any disqualifying crimes for this major?**

There is no specific list of disqualifying crimes for this profession. However, any felony conviction or drug-related or violent misdemeanor makes it exceedingly difficult to work in this field. Criminal history of any kind will likely result in a delayed licensing process and extra paperwork. Students with a criminal history who do choose to pursue a career in this field will be best-served by a solid work history (post-conviction) and several professional and character references.

**Additional Information**

Additional information on program requirements including selection criteria, final acceptance, criminal background checks, drug screening, and transferring from another college or nursing program can be found at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing).

**Technical Standards:**

There are technical standards and skill requirements which students are expected to possess and demonstrate in order to be successful in this program. More information on these standards can be found at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing).

*Certificate*

**Practical Nursing**

<b>Program Requirements</b>	<b>42 credits</b>
BIO 203 Human Anatomy and Physiology I ...	4
BIO 204 Human Anatomy and Physiology II ..	4
ENG 101 English Composition .....	3
NUR 111 Introduction to Practical Nursing....	4
NUR 112 Care of Human Needs.....	6
NUR 113 Practical Nursing Through the Lifespan I .....	6
NUR 114 Practical Nursing Through the Lifespan II .....	6
NUR 115 Practical Nursing Through the Lifespan III .....	6
PSY 101 General Psychology .....	3
<b>Certificate Requirement .....</b>	<b>42</b>

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**Recommended Professional Resources**

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES):  
[www.napnes.org](http://www.napnes.org)

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN):  
[www.nflpn.org](http://www.nflpn.org)

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN):  
[www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)

[www.hagerstowncc.edu/lpn](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/lpn)

**Hagerstown Community College Practical Nursing Program**

SEMESTER:	PRE-REQUISITES	SPRING	SUMMER I	FALL I	FALL II	SPRING I	SPRING II
Courses:	BIO 203 (4) (must be completed)	BIO 204 (4) ENG 101 (3) PSY 101 (3)	NUR 111 (4)* (7.5 week session)	NUR 112 (6)*	NUR 113 (6)*	NUR 114 (6)*	NUR 115 (6)*
Nursing Content	Human Anatomy and Psychology I (BIO 203) must be completed before the spring semester.		<b>Introduction to Practical Nursing</b>  • Nursing Evolution • Fundamental skills • Nursing Process • Health history • Physical assessment • Hygiene • Diet and nutrition • Beginning documentation	<b>Care of Human Needs</b>  • Dosage Calculations • Pharmacology • Medical surgical nursing • Mobility • Infection control	<b>Practical Nursing through the Lifespan I</b>  • Maternity • Growth and development • Pediatrics	<b>Practical Nursing through the Lifespan II</b>  • Behavioral health nursing • Medical surgical nursing	<b>Practical Nursing through the Lifespan III</b>  • Medical Surgical Nursing • Geriatrics • Trends and issues • Legal issues
Total 42 Credits	4 Credits	10 Credits	4 Credits	6 Credits	6 Credits	6 Credits	6 Credits

\* Each nursing course is based on a 7.5 week semester