Practical Nursing Diploma (PN12)
Offered at the Blairsville and Currahee Campuses

Entrance Dates ........................................................................................................... Fall
Length of Program ................................................................................................... 6 Terms
Credit Hours Required for Graduation .................................................................... 60

Purpose: The Practical Nursing program prepares students to write the NCLEX-PN for licensure as practical nurses. The program prepares graduates to give competent nursing care. This is done through a selected number of academic and occupational courses providing a variety of techniques and materials necessary to assist the student in acquiring the needed knowledge and skills to give competent care. A variety of clinical experiences is planned so that theory and practice are integrated under the guidance of the clinical instructor. Program graduates receive a practical nursing diploma and have the qualifications of an entry-level practical nurse.

Admission Requirements:
• Age 18 or older
• High school diploma or GED
• Completion of application process including placement test; or provide SAT or ACT scores less than five years old

Program Requirements:
• Successful completion of the Health Care Assistant TCC with concentration in Patient Care Assistant
• Acceptance into the Practical Nursing program is a competitive process beginning with attendance of a mandatory Practical Nursing Information Session. The dates of the mandatory information sessions are posted on the college website under Academic Programs. The students are responsible for obtaining the dates and attending one of the required meetings.
• Schedule and take PSB – Aptitude for Practical Nursing Exam with a minimum score of 30 percentile in each of the five areas
• Must complete all required learning support courses before the competitive process begins
• No re-admission to the program after two withdrawals or two academic failures in any occupational course
• Must meet the technical competencies for the program prior to entry
• Required to have a grade of “B” or better in ALHS 1011, MATH 1012, and PNSG 2010. Degree level courses in these areas with a grade of “C” or better may be accepted as transfer credit provided they meet the transfer of credit rules listed in the Admissions section of the catalog.
• Must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better. A grade of “C” or better must be maintained in each course in order to continue in each clinical course and to progress to the next semester. An overall GPA of 2.0 or better is required to be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-PN licensure exam.
• A negative (acceptable) criminal background check and drug test are required prior to clinical; student’s participation in the clinical is dependent upon the results of these requirements. Denial of any clinical facility can result in the student being dropped from the program.
• Must carry professional liability insurance while enrolled in the program
• Clinical sites are located throughout the eight-county service area and will require the students to travel and provide their own transportation to and from the clinical sites.
• Physical and dental exams and immunization records are required before assignment to clinical affiliates for training

Additional Information:
• Any individual applying for licensure as a Practical Nurse who has ever been arrested must explain and document each occurrence at the time of application to the Georgia Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses
• Graduates must pass the NCLEX-PN State Board Exam in order to work as a licensed practical nurse in Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Skills Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>Fundamentals of English I</td>
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<td>MATH 1012</td>
<td>Foundations of Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 1010</td>
<td>Basic Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHS 1011</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHS 1060</td>
<td>Diet and Nutrition for Allied Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP 1000</td>
<td>Introduction to Computers</td>
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NGTC Course Catalog / Student Handbook  
PROGRMS OF STUDY – HEALTH SCIENCES

PNSG 2010  Introduction to Pharmacology and Clinical Calculations  2
PNSG 2030  Nursing Fundamentals  6
PNSG 2035  Nursing Fundamentals Clinical  2
PNSG 2210  Medical-Surgical Nursing I  4
PNSG 2220  Medical Surgical Nursing II  4
PNSG 2230  Medical-Surgical Nursing III  4
PNSG 2240  Medical-Surgical Nursing IV  4
PNSG 2250  Maternity Nursing  3
PNSG 2255  Maternity Nursing Clinical  1
PNSG 2310  Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical I  2
PNSG 2320  Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical II  2
PNSG 2330  Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical III  2
PNSG 2340  Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical IV  2
PNSG 2410  Nursing Leadership  1
PNSG 2415  Nursing Leadership Clinical  2

Estimated cost of books and supplies for full program is approximately $3,250. Uniforms and accessories are purchased through the NGTC bookstore at approximately $350-$400. Students are required to wear white shoes, white socks, name tag, and have a watch with a second hand, a stethoscope, a sphygmomanometer, and bandage scissors. These items are purchased at the beginning of the first semester. Cost of professional conferences and seminars are not included in tuition or fees and must be paid by the student. Other costs include malpractice insurance - $15 per year, criminal background check - $65, physical exam and immunizations - $100-$150, licensure expenses - $300, and nursing fee - $304 per semester.

Technical Competencies:
Working Environment – Works inside well-lighted, ventilated patient care areas; spends 89-90% of time in patient care areas. May possibly receive cuts and infections from sharp instruments and infections from contaminated equipment and personnel. May be exposed to communicable diseases. May possibly incur strains due to handling heavy equipment.

OSHA Risk Factor - Category I – A chance of exposure to blood and other body fluids is high and is an integral component of the clinical experience. The course exposes the student to noxious smells, either toxic or non-toxic; to toxic fumes, gases, vapors, mists, and liquids; or to latex which could, depending on the chemical, cause general or localized disabling conditions as a result of inhalation, ingestion, or action on the skin. HBV vaccination is recommended prior to clinical.

Essential Abilities – This career will primarily be medium work requiring the ability to lift up to 50 pounds with frequent lifting and/or carrying objects weighing up to 25 pounds. The ability to push objects weighing up to 50 pounds is required including assisting and lifting patients from a wheelchair to a bed or pull cart. Stooping, kneeling, reaching, and dexterity are required. This career requires frequent sitting, standing, and/or walking without limitations. Ability to identify, assess, and comprehend conditions surrounding patient situations for the purpose of problem-solving around patient conditions and coming to appropriate conclusions and/or course of action. Ability to use the senses of seeing, hearing, touching, and smelling to make correct judgments regarding patient conditions for the purpose of demonstrating competence to safely engage in the practice of nursing. Behaviors that demonstrate essential neurological functions include, but are not limited to, observation, listening, understanding relationships, writing, and psychomotor abilities. The ability to see and obtain impressions through the eyes of shape, size, distance, motions, or other characteristics of objects is required. This requires a visual acuity of 20/20 vision, with clarity of vision of 20 inches or less, depth perception, four-way field vision, sharp eye focus, and the ability to identify and distinguish color. The ability to hear is essential. Ability to communicate effectively with fellow students, faculty, patients, and all members of the health care team. Skills include verbal, written, and nonverbal abilities consistent with effective communication. Expressing or exchanging ideas by the spoken word is required. Ability to measure, calculate, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate to engage competently in the safe practice of nursing. Ability to demonstrate the mental health necessary to safely engage in the practice of nursing as determined by professional standards of practice. Ability to work under mental and physical stress regularly is required.

Other Essential Behavioral Attitudes – Ability to engage in activities consistent with safe nursing practice without demonstrated behaviors of addiction to, abuse of, or dependence on alcohol or other accountability for actions as a student in the Practical Nursing program and as a developing professional Practical Nurse.