

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**Practical Nursing Diploma (PN12)**  
*Offered at Blairsville and Currahee Campuses*

Entrance Dates .....	Fall
Length of Program .....	5 Terms
Credit Hours Required for Graduation.....	60

**Purpose:** The Practical Nursing diploma 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

**Program Requirements:**

- Acceptance into the Practical Nursing Program is a competitive process in which students are ranked based on their GPA and HESI scores
- Schedule and take HESI exam
- 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 (listed below) of 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
- An acceptable (negative) criminal background check and drug test are required prior to clinical activities; student’s participation in 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 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
- BLS and First Aid Certification required

**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
- If you are an out-of-state student: NGTC adheres to the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) procedure 6.6.1p. Student Tuition and Fees, Item VI – Out of State Students shall be

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

enrolled in the college on a space available basis and shall not displace any Georgia Student desiring to enroll in the college. If there are remaining seats unfilled, out-of-state students will be added as indicated in the competitive admissions process.

<u>Program Courses</u>			<u>Credits</u>
<b>Basic Skills Courses</b>			<b>Total 12 credit hours</b>
COLL	1010	College and Career Success Skills	3
ENGL	1010	Fundamentals of English I	3
MATH	1012	Foundations of Mathematics	3
PSYC	1010	Basic Psychology	3
<b>Occupational Courses</b>			<b>Total 48 credit hours</b>
ALHS	1011	Structure and Function of the Human Body	5
ALHS	1090	Medical Terminology	2
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 \$3,000. 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. Other costs include malpractice insurance - \$11.50, drug test/criminal background check - \$90, physical exam and immunizations- \$100-\$150, licensure expenses - \$350, AceMapp registration fee - \$50, and nursing fee - \$659.00 per semester.

**Technical Competencies:**

Working Environment – Works inside well-lighted, ventilated patient care areas; spends 89-90% of time in patient care areas. Potential risks may include possibly receiving cuts and infections from sharp instruments and infections from contaminated equipment and personnel; possibly be exposed to communicable diseases; and 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.

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Essential Abilities – This position involves primarily medium work that requires frequent lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling of objects or equipment. Individuals enrolled in the program will need the physical ability to assist in lifting and carrying objects, such as patients or laboratory equipment, regardless of the weight of the patient or equipment. 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 along with the 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, evaluate, and to engage competently in the safe practice of nursing is required. 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.