

Practical Nursing PN

2026

**Practical Nursing
Information Packet**



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The Practical Nursing Program at Rhodes State College
is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN), 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Practical Nursing

Dear Practical Nursing (PN) Certificate Candidate:

The Application Information Packet contains information about the admission qualification process for the Rhodes State College Practical Nursing (PN) Program. The American Nurses Association (ANA) and each state board of nursing establish the scope of nursing practice. The Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN) establishes and enforces the State's license practical nurse (LPN) scope of practice and regulates all Ohio LPN Programs. In order to provide a program that prepares students for licensure, it is essential to admit students who meet rigorous curriculum requirements.

Students who wish to be considered for admission into the PN program must submit evidence of meeting all qualification requirements as outlined in the Information Packet **for Fall admission**. A maximum of 40 students will be accepted to begin the PN Program each fall semester. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that admission requirements are satisfied.**

Rhodes State College (RSC) advisors are available to help you become a Rhodes State student, determine if this is the right career path, answer questions about the qualification process, develop a plan to meet your educational goals and assist with general education course registration. To schedule an advising appointment, contact the Nursing Pre-Health Advisor at 419-995-8400.

Thank you for inquiring about the PN Program at Rhodes State. Our program is highly respected for its high educational standards, commitment to professionalism, dedicated faculty with approximately 60 years of combined teaching experience, and strong national licensure pass rates.

We look forward to helping you reach your career goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa Harvey, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE
Assistant Dean, Nursing Services
PN Program Administrator
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Who are Licensed Practical Nurses?

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) work as part of a team to provide safe, competent, and compassionate nursing care to patients at the direction of registered nurses, physicians, physician assistants, chiropractors, podiatrists, optometrists, and/or dentists. LPNs provide nursing care to patients from birth to death. The LPN assists in the direct care of patients to help restore the highest function of health.

Licensed Practical Nurses provide nursing care that includes but is not limited to assessments, medication administration, intravenous therapy, care plan implementation, and assists with activities of daily living (ADLs). Another important function of LPNs is patient advocacy.

It is essential that LPNs develop and use critical thinking and problem solving skills on a daily basis. Additional skills that LPNs must possess are excellent communication and interpersonal skills in order to interact appropriately and assertively with patients, families, co-workers, and other healthcare providers.

Employment Opportunities

- Hospitals/Medical Centers
- Long-term Care Facilities
- Home Health Agencies
- Doctors' Offices
- Hospice Care



Program Mission

The Rhode State College LPN Certificate Program provides an opportunity for students with diverse learning needs to change lives, build futures, and improve communities.

Program Outcome

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

86.6%



Licensure pass rate for first-time testing candidates

82.5%



Ohio Licensure pass rate for first-time testing candidates

88%



National Licensure pass rate for first time testing candidates

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

96.15%



Licensure pass rate for first time testing candidates

82.52%



Ohio Licensure pass rate for first-time testing candidates

86.49%



National Licensure pass rate for first time testing candidates



100%

Job Placement Rate

Employment rate/continuing education
following graduation

Practical Nursing Curriculum

Course	Description	Credit Hours
Pre-requisite Summer or Spring Semester (8 weeks, 15 weeks)		
BHS 2110	Growth and Development: Lifespan	2
BHS 2120	Introduction to Nursing	2
BIO 1000 or BIO 1120	Basic Human Structure and Function OR Anatomy and Physiology II	3
Semester Total		7
First Year First Semester		
NSG 1721	Pharmacology for Nursing	2
SOC 1010 or PSY 1010	Sociology OR General Psychology	3
COM 1110	English Composition	3
PNS 1200	Foundations of Practical Nursing	6
Semester Total		14
Second Semester		
DTN 1220	Principles of Nutrition	2
PNS 1202	Adult Medical-Surgical Nursing	10
Semester Total		12
Third Semester (Summer)		
PNS 1203	PN-Issues and Trends	1
PNS 1204	Maternal Child Nursing	5
Semester Total		6
Total Credit Hours		39

Admission Requirements

The Practical Nursing program has a maximum enrollment of 40 students admitted each fall semester.

Each step in Phase I and II are required and it is the students responsibility to read and understand this process. **No exceptions will be granted.**

Phase 1: College Admission Process

Step 1 _____ Apply to Rhodes State College.

Step 2 _____ Submit any relevant transcripts to Rhodes State College.

Step 3 _____ Attend a Nursing Program Briefing. Register for a date from the options available through the Program Briefing Registration found on the Nursing page on the Rhodes State College website at <https://www.rhodesstate.edu/academic-programs/nursing.html>.

- a. **Your Rhodes State cumulative GPA will be used** (See Phase II, Step 4) to determine if the **2.00** GPA requirement is met.
- b. If you are a high school senior with coursework completed through College Credit Plus (CCP), your cumulative GPA will be figured using only CCP credit from courses in the PN curriculum plan (high school GPA will **not** be used).
- c. If you have transferable college credit, request your official transcripts from previous college(s) be sent directly to Rhodes State College, Office of the Registrar, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, Ohio 45804.
- d. If applicable, a Certificate of High School Equivalency (GED) should be sent to the Rhodes State College Office of Admissions, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, Ohio 45804.
- e. Certain courses required as part of the PN curriculum must be completed within the past five years. This requirement can be waived by the program administrator with submission of proof of employment in a health care field. Examples include Growth and Development: Lifespan, Science course(s), Pharmacology for Nursing and Principles in Nutrition.

Phase 2: Program Qualification Requirements

Step 4 _____ Validate a college level cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher. The Rhodes State cumulative GPA will be decision to validate the applicant's cumulative GPA; if the Rhodes State cumulative GPA is below 2.00, then CCP credit courses found in the PN curriculum plan will be used to refigure a cumulative GPA. The following URL can be utilized to calculate a GPA: <https://www.registrar.iastate.edu/students/grades/gpa-calc>

Step 5 _____ Meet all General College requirements (see **General Admission Procedures** in the Rhodes State Catalog)

Step 6 _____ Complete all pre-requisite courses listed with a "C" grade or higher.

Step 7 _____ Meet remediation free levels in mathematics or successfully complete any developmental coursework. (If applicable, Credit by Examination or Credit by Experience may be granted.)

Step 8 _____ Certificate of Completion of State-approved nurse aide training course or equivalent.

Step 9 _____ Completion of and acceptance of all requirements in DISA/CastleBranch Compliance Tracker account, including: Drug Screen, BCI Background Check, Physical Exam, Vaccination Records, and CPR Certification (American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers or American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) with hands-on training).

Step 10 _____ The Practical Nursing Program admits 40 students each Fall Semester. Upon completion of all Program requirements, students may register for the first Practical Nursing clinical course, PNS 1200.



Section TWO

Practical Nursing Program Information

I. Program Duration

The PN Program admits annually (fall semesters) and is designed to be completed in three semesters. Students may take general education or basic related courses required for the nursing degree prior to admission in the PN program. Regardless of the number of general education or basic related courses taken prior to admission, It will take a minimum of three semesters (Fall, Spring and Summer) to complete the program regardless of the amount of course work that has been completed prior to admission.

II. Nursing Clinical Assignments

Students enrolled in the PN program must successfully complete clinical assignments in conjunction with on-campus classroom and laboratory instruction. Clinical assignments for students are arranged so that all students can benefit by learning through a variety of clinical experiences. **Students must be prepared to meet the financial obligations associated with the clinical assignment (i.e. transportation to the facility, immunizations and health testing, required equipment, and health insurance).**

III. State of Ohio Licensing Procedure for Practical Nurses

Upon completion of the program, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and the Ohio Board of Nursing requires applicants to pass a national licensing examination prior to being granted nursing privileges in the State of Ohio. **There is considerable cost associated with required testing (approximately \$350 - \$400 at the time of this publication).**

As of April 12, 2021, Ohio Legislation (HB 263) required licensing boards to post potentially disqualifying offenses on the agency website. The Ohio Board of Nursing's list of potentially disqualifying offenses is posted at www.nursing.ohio.gov.

Examples of potentially disqualifying offenses may include: aggravated murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, felonious assault, kidnapping, rape, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, sexual battery, gross sexual imposition, and aggravated arson.

In addition, the Ohio Board of Nursing may deny an applicant's nursing license application for one of the following listed offenses.

1. Any Felony
2. Crimes involving Gross Immorality or Moral Turpitude
3. Misdemeanor Drug Law Violation
4. Misdemeanor Committed in the Course of Practice

The Board does not have the authority to conduct an investigation of an individual who has not applied for a license or certificate. If an applicant has a criminal history, the Board conducts a thorough investigation and considers the above factors and others, including the facts and circumstances underlying the offense; and the total number and pattern of offenses.

Determination by Board Whether a Crime is on the List of Potentially Disqualifying Offenses

You may request a letter from the Board of Nursing stating whether a crime is on this list of potentially disqualifying offenses by emailing: disqualifying-offense-requests@nursing.ohio.gov. A credit card payment of \$25.00 is required.

Other Consequences of Criminal History - Not Regulated by Board of Nursing

Although the Board may grant a license or certificate to an applicant who has a criminal offense history, an individual may be restricted from working in certain settings based on his or her criminal history due to federal and state laws, which require criminal records checks prior to employment in certain settings, and which may impose absolute or discretionary bars to employment in certain patient care settings, for example, in facilities or settings involving care provided to older adults or children. See, e.g., Ohio Administrative Code 173-9-07; 3701-60-07; 5123:2-2-02; 5160-45-07.

Enrollment in Education Programs

The Board cannot answer questions regarding one's eligibility to attend nursing, dialysis, medication aide, or community health worker schools, or participate in clinical instruction. Nursing and other programs vary in regard to enrollment criteria, so it is recommended that you contact the nursing or other program to determine whether you are eligible to enroll. Hospitals and other medical facilities may not authorize individuals to participate in the clinical instruction necessary to complete a program based on criminal history.

List of Potentially Disqualifying Offense

IV. Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screens

To meet the expanding requirements of our clinical affiliates, a criminal background check and a drug screen is mandatory prior to entering the first clinical nursing course for all students admitted to the PN program.

The student may not be able to complete the nursing program if he/she has been convicted of a felony and/or some misdemeanors. Students with certain felonies, misdemeanors, or drug-related convictions may be ineligible for admission into clinical experiences.

Positive drug screenings will result in dismissal from the PN program. Any student who refuses/fails to cooperate, or complete any required drug screening will be considered "positive" and dismissed from the PN program. All students requiring drug screening may be subject to random drug screens and for just cause during the program. Upon completion of the PN Program, graduates will be eligible to apply for licensure by examination.

The Ohio Board of Nursing requires each applicant to complete a fingerprint criminal records check completed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The BCI and FBI record checks are both required for initial licensure. The Ohio Board of Nursing cannot complete the processing of any application until it receives the BCI and FBI background check reports. **The graduate is responsible for the cost of the BCI and FBI records checks.**

V. Physical Examination

Prior to the first clinical rotation, the student will be required to have a physical examination completed by his/her family physician (or other acceptable healthcare provider), completion of all required immunizations, and American Heart Association (AHA) or American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI) CPR. **The student is responsible for these costs.**

VI. CastleBranch Compliance (Immunizations) and Background (Criminal Records) Trackers

All nursing students are required to purchase the Compliance (Medical/Immunization) and Background trackers from CastleBranch (www.castlebranch.com) prior to entering the first nursing clinical course. In addition to purchasing the CastleBranch products, the student is required to complete the electronic background checker and upload all required medical documentation to the appropriate portals prior to the deadline that is provided to students at the mandatory Nursing Program Orientation.

VII. Technical Standards

All applicants for Health Science Programs must possess the essential skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the curriculum either with or without reasonable accommodations for any disabilities the individual may have. **Note:** The use of an intermediary that, in effect, requires a student to rely on someone else's power of selection and observation will not be permitted. The essential skills and abilities for Health Science Programs are categorized in the following:

Technical Standards

- 1. Sensory/Observational Skills:** The applicant must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of all the senses.
- 2. Communication:** The applicant must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. An applicant must be able to communicate effectively with patients and all members of the health care team. Communication includes, listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- 3. Motor Skills:** Applicants must have sufficient motor skills to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate and utilize the equipment central to the assessment, general and emergency treatment of patients receiving health practitioners' care. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

4. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and evaluation. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of health practitioners, requires all of these abilities. In addition, the applicant should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relations of structures.

5. Behavioral/Social Skills and Professionalism:

An applicant must possess the emotional health required for utilization of his/her intellectual abilities. The exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of effective relationships with patients are essential skills for health practitioners. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Concern for others, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for the health practitioners.

6. Environmental: All applicants must interact with diverse patient populations of all ages with a range of acute and chronic medical conditions. Applicants may be exposed to communicable diseases, toxic substances, ionizing radiation, medicinal preparations, hostile individuals, and other conditions common to the health care environment. Applicants must adhere to policies and procedures to minimize exposure to hazards in the environment, including but not limited to the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Some PPE may be a personal expense.

VIII. Health Insurance

Rhodes State College is not responsible for any accidents or illnesses that result from experiences on campus, laboratory and/or clinical. Students are required to purchase personal healthcare insurance for the duration of the program and be able to provide proof if requested.

IX. Working while in the PN Program

Some students continue to work while enrolled in the PN Program, but this is dependent upon work schedule, flexibility, semester schedule, and credit hour load, as well as the student's learning style and other responsibilities. Students are required to attend all scheduled classes, and must be available for the required laboratory and clinical education experiences. The PN faculty members strongly recommend that a student does not work more than 10 hours per week while in the program. It is an expectation that a student will spend at least two to three hours of outside preparation and studying for every contact hour in the course per week.

X. Academic Standards of the PN Program

The grading policies of the PN Program are more rigorous than those of Rhodes State College to ensure student competence. The student must earn a 78% or better in all PNS and related coursework in the PN program. The student must earn an overall satisfactory grade on all required skill competency checkoffs. Also, the student must earn an overall satisfactory grade for clinical rotations.

Rhodes State College

4240 Campus Drive

Lima, Ohio 45804

www.RhodesState.edu

