

# Practical Nursing

[swic.edu/practical-nursing](http://swic.edu/practical-nursing)

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## Career Overview

The SWIC Practical Nursing program prepares students with the basic skills necessary to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). LPNs are on the front line of nursing, interacting with patients on a daily basis in settings including hospitals, long-term care settings, doctors' offices, outpatient clinics or even home health. They work under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician and sometimes oversee certified nurse assistants. PNs provide basic bedside care for the sick, injured and convalescent, and do tasks such as give injections, take vital signs, collect samples, perform diagnostic tests, dress wounds, administer medication and report status of the patient. Key components include collaborating and collecting data on the health assessment of a patient, participating in the evaluation of patient responses to intervention, communicating with other healthcare professionals and serving as an advocate for the patient as delegated. The overall function of a licensed practical nurse is to ensure patient comfort and safety. For further information regarding the field of practical nursing, contact the National League for Nursing at <http://www.nln.org/professional-development-programs/teaching-resources/practical-nursing>. Contact an academic advisor to assist with career exploration.

## About the Program

- One-year certificate in practical nursing
- Starts: Spring semester (January)
- Enroll in November
- To enroll, proof of skill in basic algebra, reading and writing required; advising will assist with methods to assess

The program is designed to include classroom education, auto-tutorial lab, simulation experiences and clinical application in long-term care, hospital, and healthcare office settings.

In accordance with the Illinois Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act, 2017, the purpose of the Practical Nursing Education curriculum at SWIC is to prepare students to:

1. Apply for the NCLEX-PN exam after successful completion of the program and to apply for licensure as registered practical nurse after successfully completing the NCLEX-PN.
2. Practice entry-level practical nursing only under the direct supervision of the registered practical nurse until item No. 1 has been accomplished.
3. Practice practical nursing at a beginning staff level after successfully completing the NCLEX-PN and receiving licensure as a registered practical nurse.

## Licensure Requirements

Upon successful completion of the Practical Nursing curriculum, graduates are awarded a certificate in practical nursing and are

eligible to take the computer adaptive NCLEX-PN exam. To practice as a practical nurse, graduates must pass the NCLEX-PN examination. Graduates who pass the exam may apply to become Licensed Practical Nurses. All states require licensure to practice as a practical nurse.

Graduates who successfully pass the NCLEX-PN may also opt to continue their education at institutions which offer Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) programs or RN-Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Information on ADN or RN-BSN articulation/dual enrollment is available in the Nursing Education office.

## Enrollment Requirements

Students must demonstrate knowledge of basic reading, writing, and math skills to enroll in first semester PN courses. This requires proof of student's proficiency in ENG 91 (reading), ENG 95 (writing), and MATH 94 (basic algebra). To obtain information about placement testing or alternate methods of assessing reading, writing, and math skills visit academic advising.

Students enrolling should be aware a criminal background check and drug testing are required.

## Program Capacity

The Practical Nursing program accepts approximately 35 students each spring semester at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus, depending on clinical availability.

## Program Location

The Practical Nursing Education program consists of PN-prefix courses and assigned clinical experience. Specific locations depend on the course.

1. The PN courses are offered at the Sam Wolf Granite Campus during the day of the semesters indicated.
2. Clinical experiences may be scheduled during the day, evening and/or weekends at hospitals/clinics located throughout Southern Illinois and in the St. Louis region. Students may be required to travel outside the college district for clinical experience courses. Specific clinical placement cannot be guaranteed, and specific clinical schedules may be changed during courses.

Students should check location and schedule of classes to ensure availability and access. Students are responsible for their own transportation and attendance at any of the classes and clinicals assigned by the program.

## CNA Bridge to PN (Articulation)

A bridge process exists for Certified Illinois Nurse Assistants. The process will escrow two PN credits for Illinois certified nurse assistants. The two credits will be awarded for PN 100, pending successful completion of PN 101 on the first attempt. If PN 101 is not completed successfully, no credits will be applied. Any certified nurse assistant may opt not to enter the bridge program – but to enter the generic PN program

## Orientation & Performance

Students must attend the required orientation session held in December, meet program-specific medical requirements, be able to perform the essential functions of the job as listed in the Student Handbook or at [swic.edu/student-practical-nurse-functions](http://swic.edu/student-practical-nurse-functions) with reasonable accommodation if need, and submit results of background check, drug screen, physical examination

and the required immunizations by the required date as presented in orientation sessions. Any applicants or enrolled students are encouraged to contact the Disability & Access Center at 618-235-2700, ext. 5368, to discuss potential issues associated with meeting these requirements. Students not able to perform the essential element of the job of a practical nurse may be unable to pass the required courses. Other program-specific restrictions may apply.

## Health Insurance

Health insurance is required during clinical Practical Nursing Education courses. Students are personally responsible for any costs incurred for injuries occurring during clinical experience in their role as student nurses.

## Medical/Health Requirements

PN students will be required to possess and maintain current CPR certification at the Basic Life Support level and show proof of immunizations, tuberculosis test and physical examination before beginning any clinical experience. These requirements do not have to be fulfilled until after the program orientation meetings but must be fulfilled by the required deadline.

## Background Checks and Drug Testing

Criminal background check, random drug test and name search on government registries which prohibit employment in health care professions are required in our health science programs. Program start is contingent upon meeting deadlines for completion of the screening and results which allow the student to participate in the clinical portion of the program. Details and directions for accessing and purchasing online screening for background checks are shared with accepted students. Background checks are conducted for every state in which the student has worked or resided since the age of 18 years. Conviction of offenses in the following areas normally prohibit the student from participation in the clinical portion of the program and will result in program dismissal: assault, sexual offenses, murder, burglary, arson, and robbery. Refer to the Health Care Worker Background Check Act for a complete list of offenses at [www.idph.state.il.us/nar/](http://www.idph.state.il.us/nar/).

To participate in the clinical portion of the program, students with “disqualifying” offense(s) will be asked to produce a waiver from the Illinois Department of Public Health for identified offenses. To request a waiver application from IDPH, students may call 217-785-5133. Not all clinical sites accept the IDPH waiver (ie. Missouri sites), therefore required clinical sites are also surveyed to determine if clinical placement can be accomplished. If a waiver cannot be produced prior to clinicals/program start or survey results indicate clinical sites prohibit the conviction, the student will be removed from the program.

In addition, positive results from the drug test or student listing on prohibitory government registry will also result in dismissal from the program. Note: Positive drug testing results from the use of illegal drugs or prescription medication for which the student does not have a prescription. Medical marijuana, which is not FDA approved, is also considered a positive drug testing result. Dismissal for positive criminal background check, drug

test, or listing on a government registry does not qualify students for refund of tuition or lab fees. Students who have concerns regarding their status with the above regulations are encouraged to discuss the matter with the program coordinator or the coordinator’s assistant prior to seeking admission.

## Graduation Requirements

Students enrolled to the program must follow course requirements for graduation at the time they are admitted and must meet all course, program, certification and sequencing requirements specified. Posted changes in course requisites are applicable to all newly admitted students. Students are responsible for program policies as listed in the Practical Nursing Student Handbook. Students who fail to meet program specific requirements will be dropped from the program and may be required to re-enroll in the succeeding year. The Practical Nursing Education program must be completed within two years of the beginning of the practical nursing courses for the first time. Students must follow the sequencing requirements. Students must repeat a failed course as soon as it is offered. An average grade of C (76 percent without rounding) is required to pass a test. The final exam must be completed with a C or higher; and a satisfactory in lab/clinical evaluation are the minimum requirements for passing practical nursing courses. Any standardized testing and course assignments must be completed by the course ending date. A grade of C is the minimum grade acceptable for ALL courses in the practical nursing curriculum. Please refer to the current Practical Nursing Student Handbook for most recent program policies.

## Practical Nursing Certificate (025C)\*

### First Year

Spring Semester			Semester Credits
PN	100	Fundamentals of Nursing I	2
PN	101	Foundations of Nursing II	6
PN	140	Human Body Structure and Function	4
PN	142	Pharmacology	3
Total Semester Credits			15

Summer Semester			Semester Credits
PN	120	Nutrition in Nursing	2
PN	152	Mental Health Nursing	3
Total Semester Credits			5

Fall Semester			Semester Credits
PN	154	Obstetric and Newborn Nursing	3.5
PN	155	Pediatrics in Practical Nursing	2.5
PN	160	Medical Surgical Nursing I	5.5
PN	162	Medical Surgical Nursing II	5.5
Total Semester Credits			17
Total Program Credits			37