

Course Descriptions

PRACTICAL NURSING	
PN 101 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY	4 CREDITS
Through classroom and laboratory experience, this course provides understanding of the gross structure and normal function and integration of the human body including normal processes of the organ, integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and lymphatic systems. Included in this course are principles of basic chemistry, microbiology and medical terminology as it relates to defining human anatomy and physiology processes. This course provides a solid background for assessing deviations from normal body structure and function caused by illness.	
PN102 HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN	2 CREDITS
This course encompasses human growth and development across the life span. Stages of individual biophysical and psychosocial development from conception to late adulthood are addressed. Theories of growth and development are introduced and examined. The family as a unit and its influences on health issues are also examined. Emphasis is put on changes and characteristics of the older adult.	
PN103 PROFESSIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF PRACTICAL NURSING	1 CREDIT
This course defines the role of a practical nursing student and graduate. Professionalism, ethical and legal aspects, regulation of nursing practice in Massachusetts, standards of conduct for licensed practical nurses determined by the Massachusetts General Laws and Regulations of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing are included. Concepts of health, illness, health promotion and an overview of contemporary nursing theories culminate in the introduction of Dorothea Orem's Self-Care Deficit Theory of Nursing. Students will review study skills, test-taking strategies and critical thinking skills. Students will begin to accumulate materials for a résumé and portfolio assembled during Term III.	
PN104 INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOLOGY	2 CREDITS
The study of drugs and their actions on living organisms begins in this course. This course covers drug classification, the use, adverse effects and drug interactions of medications. Differences in drug action across the life-span will be addressed with specific attention to the aging population. Medication dosage calculations and hands-on practice of safe administration of medications are covered. The focus in Term I will be on oral, parenteral and topical medication administration. Medication dosage calculations are taught for competency by the end of this term. Additional pharmacology concepts are covered in Terms II and III.	
PN105 FUNDAMENTALS OF PRACTICAL NURSING	11 CREDITS
Through classroom, laboratory and clinical experience, this course introduces the student to the role of the practical nurse in assisting to identify and meet the self-care needs of adult clients and their significant others. The framework for the course is Orem's Self-Care Deficit Theory of Nursing. Students learn to use theory to determine and implement appropriate nursing interventions in clinical settings. Course content integrates information about family theory and dynamics, communication skills, diversity, nutrition pharmacology, infection control principles of teaching and learning, the nursing process, levels of prevention, ethical-legal nursing practice, and caring behaviors. Additional concepts include collaboration, patient advocacy, life-long learning and accountability and commonly occurring health deviations. Selected mental health concepts – anxiety, depression, and dementia - will be embedded.	
PN206 CONCEPTS OF PRACTICAL NURSING II	11 CREDITS
In this course the student continues to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired during Term I in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of care for adult clients with health deviations. Learning experiences will take place in the classroom/laboratory as well as in the acute and/or sub-acute clinical setting.	
PN307 ADVANCED CONCEPTS OF PRACTICAL NURSING	9 CREDITS
The student continues to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired during Terms I and II in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of care for patients with complex needs and groups of adult clients with health	

deviations. Concepts of leadership, management, and delegation appropriate for the practical nurse will be incorporated. Learning experiences will take place in the classroom/laboratory as well as in the community and in acute and/or sub-acute clinical settings.

PN308 ISSUES AND TRENDS IN PRACTICAL NURSING

2 CREDITS

The student continues the additional study of the legal and ethical concepts inherent in nursing and of contemporary issues facing licensed practical nurses. The portfolio and résumé started in PN 104 are completed. The course covers interviewing, exploring opportunities available to licensed practical nurses, exploration of continuing education opportunities, the value and necessity of lifelong learning, and preparation for the NCLEX-PN and licensure.

PN309 FAMILY CENTERED NURSING

6 CREDITS

The student will utilize clinical skills and knowledge of growth and development to plan, implement and evaluate the care of children and families, including the child-bearing family. Health promotion, reproductive health, and normal childbirth will be emphasized, as well as the care of the child with health deviations. Clinical experiences will take place in the community and in inpatient settings as opportunities permit.