



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
RAPHAEL O. WHEATLEY SKILL CENTER
Post-Secondary Career & Technical Education Institute



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Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program Curriculum Overview

FALL TERM I (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

Microbiology (52 hours) This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of microbiology as they relate to nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on the structure and function of microorganisms, mechanisms of disease transmission, and the body's immune response. Students will explore infection prevention and control practices, including standard and transmission-based precautions, healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), and antimicrobial therapies. The course prepares students to apply microbiological concepts to safe clinical decision-making and patient care.

Textbook: *Burton's Microbiology for the Health Sciences, 11th ed.*

Authors: Patrick J. Engelkirk, Janet Duben-Engelkirk & Robert Fader

Publisher: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

ISBN: 978-1-284-20995-2

Human Anatomy and Physiology(78 hours) This course provides a comprehensive foundation in the structure and function of the human body. Students will examine major body systems, homeostatic mechanisms, and the interrelationship between anatomy and physiology. Emphasis is placed on understanding how alterations in normal function contribute to disease processes. This foundational knowledge supports clinical reasoning and the safe delivery of nursing care.

Textbook: *Understanding Anatomy and Physiology: A Visual, Auditory, Interactive Approach, 4th ed.*

Authors: Gail Sloan Thompson

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-1-7196-4762-5

Professional Vocational Relationships (52 hours) This course introduces the roles and responsibilities of the Licensed Practical Nurse within the healthcare team. Topics include legal and ethical principles, scope of practice, standards of care, and professional communication. Students will develop skills in collaboration, delegation, and coordination of care while fostering accountability, cultural competence, and patient-centered practice. **Textbook:** *Success in Practical/Vocational Nursing: From Student to Leader, 10th ed.*

Authors: Lisa Carroll, PhD, RN & Janyce L. Collier, MSN, RN, CNE

Publisher: Elsevier Inc.
ISBN-13: 978-0-323-81017-3

Computer Literacy (39 hours) This course develops essential digital literacy skills required in modern healthcare environments. Students will learn basic computer operations, electronic documentation, and the use of healthcare technologies, including how to navigate computer software to access electronic health records (EHRs). Emphasis is placed on information management, confidentiality, and the application of technology to support safe and efficient patient care.

SPRING TERM II (JANUARY–MAY)

Drug Dosage and Calculations (52 hours) This course focuses on the mathematical introduction to principles necessary for safe medication administration. Students will learn to calculate oral, parenteral, and intravenous medication dosages using dimensional analysis and ratio-proportion methods. Emphasis is placed on accuracy, critical thinking, and prevention of medication errors in clinical practice. Students will be required to pass this course each semester.

Textbook: *Calculation of Drug Dosages Work Text 12th Ed.*

Authors: Sheila J. Ogden & Linda K. Fluharty

Publisher: Elsevier Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-323-82622-8

Nursing Fundamentals (78 hours) This foundational nursing course introduces the nursing process as a framework for clinical decision-making. Students develop essential skills in patient assessment, basic nursing interventions, infection control, and safety. Laboratory and simulation video experiences allow students to practice psychomotor skills, including vital signs, hygiene care, mobility assistance, and documentation, preparing them for clinical application.

Textbook: *Fundamentals of Nursing Care: Concepts, Connection, Skills 4th ed.*

Authors: Marti Burton, David Smith

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-1-7196-4455-6

Medical Terminology (39 hours) This course equips students with a basic understanding of the language of healthcare by focusing on prefixes, suffixes, root words, and commonly used medical terms. Mastery of medical terminology enhances communication, documentation accuracy, and understanding of patient conditions and treatments.

Textbook: *Quick and Easy Medical Terminology, 10th ed.*

Authors: Peggy Leonard

Publisher: Elsevier Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-323-88395-5

FALL TERM III (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

Pharmacology (78 hours) This course introduces the principles of pharmacology, including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and medication safety. Students will study major drug classifications, indications, contraindications, side effects, and nursing implications. Emphasis is placed on safe medication administration, patient education, and adherence to national safety guidelines.

Textbook: *Pharmacology Clear and Simple: A Guide for Drug Classification and Dosage Calculation*, 5th ed.

Authors: Cynthia Watkins

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-1-7196-5119-6

Adult Health I (78 hours) This course focuses on the care of adult patients with common acute and chronic health conditions. Students apply the nursing process to manage medical and surgical disorders affecting various body systems. Emphasis is placed on clinical judgment, patient safety, cultural competence, and evidence-based care in diverse healthcare settings.

Textbook: *Understanding Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 7th Edition

Authors: Linda S. Williams & Paula D. Hopper

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-1-7196-4458-7

Nutrition and Diet Therapy (52 hours) This course explores the role of nutrition in health promotion and disease management. Students will learn about essential nutrients, therapeutic diets, and nutritional modifications for various health conditions. The course emphasizes collaboration with dietitians and the integration of nutritional care into the nursing plan.

Textbook: *Williams' Basic Nutrition & Diet Therapy*, 16th ed.

Authors: Staci Nix MS RD CD

Publisher: Elsevier Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-323-65376-3

SPRING TERM IV (JANUARY–MAY)

Obstetrics (52 hours) This course provides an overview of maternal-newborn nursing care. Students will learn to care for women during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period, as well as the care of the healthy newborn. Emphasis is placed on family-centered care, patient education, and the recognition of complications requiring intervention.

Textbook: *Safe Maternity and Pediatric Care* 2nd ed.

Authors: Luanne Linnard Palmer

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-0-8036-9734-8

Pediatrics (52 hours) This course focuses on the nursing care of infants, children, and adolescents. Students will explore growth and development, health promotion, and common pediatric

illnesses. Emphasis is placed on family-centered care, safety, and age-appropriate communication.

Textbook: *Safe Maternity and Pediatric Care 2nd ed.*

Authors: Luanne Linnard Palmer

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-0-8036-9734-8

Adult Health II (52 hours) This course builds upon Adult Health Nursing I, focusing on more complex and multisystem disorders. Students enhance their clinical reasoning skills and their ability to manage patients with higher-acuity conditions. Emphasis is placed on prioritization, delegation, and coordination of care.

Textbook: *Understanding Medical-Surgical Nursing, 7th Edition*

Authors: Linda S. Williams & Paula D. Hopper

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-1-7196-4458-7

Gerontology (52 hours) This course examines the aging process and the unique healthcare needs of older adults. Students will explore the physiological, psychological, and social aspects of aging, as well as common geriatric conditions. Emphasis is placed on promoting independence, safety, and quality of life for the aging population.

Textbook: *Caring for Older Adults Holistically 8th Ed.*

Authors: Tamara Dahlkemper

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-1-7196-4758-8

FALL TERM V (AUGUST–DECEMBER)

Leadership (39 hours) This course prepares students for leadership roles within the scope of practical nursing. Topics include delegation, time management, conflict resolution, and supervision of unlicensed assistive personnel. Students will develop skills necessary to coordinate care and contribute to positive patient outcomes.

Textbook: *Nursing Leadership, Management, and Professional Practice for LPN/LVN, 7th ed.*

Author: Tamara D. Kemper, RN, MS

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN-13: 978-1-7196-4148-7

Behavioral Health (52 hours) This course focuses on the care of patients with mental health and behavioral disorders across the lifespan. Students will learn therapeutic communication techniques, crisis intervention strategies, and methods to support emotional well-being. Emphasis is placed on reducing stigma and promoting holistic care.

Textbook: *Mental Health Nursing, 6th ed.*

Authors: Linda M. Gorman and Robyn Anwar

Publisher: F.A. Davis Co.

ISBN: 978-7196-4560-7

Population Health (52 hours) This course introduces students to nursing care at the community and population level. Students will assess social determinants of health, identify community health needs, and participate in health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. The role of the nurse as an advocate and educator is emphasized.

Textbook: *Foundations for Population Health in Community Public Health Nursing 5th ed.*

Authors: Maria Stanhope & Jeanette Lancaster

Publisher: Elsevier Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-323-44383-8

SPRING TERM VI (JANUARY–MAY)

NCLEX-PN Review (78 hours) This comprehensive review course prepares students for success on the NCLEX-PN licensure examination. Content includes a structured review of key nursing concepts, test-taking strategies, and practice with NCLEX-style questions. Emphasis is placed on clinical judgment, prioritization, and readiness for licensure.

Textbook: UWorld Nursing NCLEX-PN Prep Course (Online)

URL: <https://www.nursing.uworld.com/nclex-pn/>

Clinical Practicum (500 hours total) The clinical component provides supervised, hands-on experience in a variety of healthcare settings, including acute care, long-term care, and community-based facilities. Students apply theoretical knowledge to real-world patient care, developing competencies in assessment, medication administration, communication, and documentation. Under the guidance of clinical instructors, students demonstrate professionalism, critical thinking, and safe nursing practice in preparation for entry into the workforce.

Commented [SD1]: Accumulation of hours is to be incorporated with the skills lab and is to be reviewed based on the VIBOL first agreed upon curriculum