GENERAL INFORMATION QUESTIONS

* Is Pinellas Technical College accredited?
  + Pinellas Technical College is accredited by the Commission of the Council of Occupational Education (COE), 41 Perimeter Center East, NE, Suite 640, Atlanta, Georgia 30346. The Practical Nursing program is governed by the Florida Board of Nursing.
* How do LPN and RN responsibilities differ?
  + RNs have supervisory duty over all members of a patient health care team. Only RNs are permitted to assess patients and develop care plans. LPNs may add information to help the RN assess and develop the care plans. LPNs can do all tasks associated with patient care but some, like blood administration, still require RN supervision. In other words, RNs are in charge and LPNs work under their direction.
* Other than hospitals, what facilities hire LPNs?
  + There is a great demand for LPNs at area nursing and rehabilitation centers, doctors’ offices, dialysis centers, and out-patient clinics. Private duty through agencies or direct employment by a patient is also available.
* What is the average pay scale for practical nurses?
  + The mean hourly wage for Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses in Tampa- St. Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan area in 2014 was $19.96. The mean annual wage or salary was $41,500. In Florida, in 2014 as a whole, the mean hourly wage for Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses was $19.77. The mean annual wage or salary was $41,100. (<http://online.onetcenter.org/find/quick?s=Practical+Nursing>)
* What kind of credential will I receive when I complete the program?
  + Pinellas Technical College is not a degree-granting institution. Program graduates will receive a Certificate of Program Completion.
* Do I have to take a test to become licensed?
  + Yes. After you graduate from the program you will need to take and pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for Licensed Practical/Vocational nurses.
* How can I learn more about this career field?
  + This link will give you an in depth summary of the job tasks, tools and technology, knowledge, skills, etc.: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2061.00

PROGRAM SPECIFIC QUSTIONS

* What are the uniform requirements for the practical nursing program and how do I purchase the uniforms?
  + We have gone to a new uniform type (hospital scrub style) and color. Newly accepted PN students are emailed the specific details about the uniform cost and the approved school vendor.
* Is the practical nursing course offered in the evening?
  + There are currently no proposed start dates for the Evening format of our PN program.
* What is the length of the Practical Nursing Program?
  + About 15.5 months
* When I move on to become an RN, will the PN program give me my general education and the prerequisites I need to get into an RN program?
  + Pinellas Technical College does not offer general education classes. The focus on all Pinellas Technical College classes is to provide the technical training needed to enter a high-wage, high skill job. However, St. Petersburg College is one among several post-secondary institutions that offer an LPN transitional program into their Registered Nurse program. Typically in such programs, the post-secondary institution will hold a number of seats exclusively for LPN and often reduce the total amount of time required to complete the RN program on their site. We recommend you research specific institutions you are interested in attending to determine if they offer an LPN transitional program and the specifics of the program. You may find that in some instances, it is easier and quicker to enter an RN program through the transitional process than from the very beginning of the RN program.
* Are there pre-requisites?
  + There are no prerequisites but there are admission requirements. Please refer to the application process.
* How long is the wait for the LPN program?
  + **Pinellas Technical College does not use a waiting list.** Applicants must complete the application process for the class they will to attend. Classes begin several times a year. Enrollment in the class is based on meeting the requirements outlined in the application process and space availability.
* I am a certified nursing assistant and have completed both anatomy and physiology classes. Will I be given credit for this?
  + Students who have had previous training submit transcripts with their application and are evaluated by the nursing department at the time of application to determine what, if any, curriculum requirements may be satisfied by that training. If the training has been more than two years ago, the nursing department often requires the student to participate in the entire curriculum to review and update information. Due to the structure and sequence of instruction, students will not be granted credit for completion of anatomy and physiology completed at another institution.
* I am interested in studying to become a nurse in the obstetrics field. What training will I need?
  + Pinellas Technical College offers a course in Practical Nursing and does not have standalone classes for a specific area of nursing. The Practical Nursing program covers the following content:
    - Health Science core
    - Basic Client Care
    - Anatomy & Physiology
    - Introduction to Nursing
    - Administration of Medication
    - Peri-operative Nursing Care
    - Mental Health Concepts
    - Medical-Surgical Nursing I
    - Medical-Surgical Nursing II
    - Maternal and Newborn Nursing
    - Pediatric Nursing
    - Comprehensive Nursing
* What is the cost of the Practical Nursing Program?
  + 2015-2016 school year costs include in-state tuition rates at $2.92 per hour totaling $7,000.00 approximately for the cost of tuition, lab fees, books, tools and supplies. The costs quoted are subjected to change.
* What can you tell me about the Practical Nursing online classes?
  + The Online Course is exactly like the traditional on-site program with two exceptions: (1) The 675 hour academic theory part of the program is delivered via computer with limited face-to-face classroom instruction and, (2) The remaining 675 clinical hours are scheduled as much as possible on weekends and weeknights at various locations throughout the county. On-Campus sessions can be scheduled for several nights each week that will provide lecture, labs and demonstrations. Clinicals are scheduled throughout the 15.5 month long program. The hours are usually 7AM to 7PM for any weekend clinicals that are scheduled. Weeknight clinicals are scheduled usually 3PM – 9:45PM. This schedule is subject to change.
* What kind of clinical experience is involved in this course?
  + PN students spend half of their education in the clinical setting with patients. Clinicals are scheduled at local hospitals as well as area nursing homes. Clinical hours are scheduled throughout the 15 month long program.
* Is math computation involved in the class work?
  + Yes, the type of math required for nursing is addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, and word problems. The instructors hold tutoring sessions to assist students who need help.
* Is there a lot of homework in the LPN courses?
  + Yes, most students enrolled in site based classes find that in addition to the work completed in class during the 6.25 daily hours for four days, one to two hours of homework per night is necessary to do well in the course. Because the online curriculum mirrors the site based class, online students must complete the same curriculum found in the 6.25 daily hours over four days of site based students plus extra hours of work regarded as homework by site based students. The flexibility of spreading the 25 weekly minimum hourly requirement over a week via computer versus a four day physical presence in a classroom is often a factor in choosing to enroll in online classes. Student study groups have been very helpful for many students.

ADMISSIONS QUSTIONS

* How do I download an application packet?
  + Go to the [myptc.edu](http://www.pcsb.org/Page/261) website. Choose Programs. Choose Practical Nursing. Click on the application for the class you prefer. You may either save the document to your desktop or download it.
* Do you reserve a certain portion of the class for former Pinellas Technical College students?
  + We do not reserve any seats for former students. However, when evaluating Practical Nursing applications, a number of aspects of the candidate’s portfolio are considered with a point system used to determine admissions status. For example, students who have graduated from Pinellas Technical College add an extra two points to their individual total.
* Since I have college transcripts is it necessary to have a copy of my GED?
  + Many times on college transcripts it will read that a student was admitted based on high school graduation or completion of GED. If your transcript has that information on it, you will only need to submit that documentation. Please be sure to highlight the needed information.
* My GED paper got lost in a move. I do not know where to get another one. Do you?
  + If you took the test in the state of Florida, you can call 1-877-352-4331 to request a copy. If you took the GED in another state, contact information may be had at that number.
* I graduated from high school but did not pass one section of the FCAT – can I apply for the Practical Nursing program?
  + No. Your high school transcript must read that you have earned a standard high school diploma. An optional accepted credential would be a GED certification.
* Will Pinellas Technical College accept a high school diploma or degree earned in a foreign country?
  + Degrees from countries other than the United States must be evaluated by an international consultant. This agency will determine what level the degree is equivalent to in the United States. Two educational consultants are listed below:

**International Education Consultants**

P. O. Box 248233

Coral Gables, FL 33124

Tel. (305) 273-1616

Fax. (305) 273-1338

E-Mail: [info@isilny.com](mailto:info@isilny.com)

<http://www.jsilny.com>

**International Consultants of Delaware Inc.**

109 Barksdale Professional Center

Newark, DE 19711-3258

Tel. (302) 737-8715

Fax. (302) 737-8756

E-Mail: [icd@icdel.com](mailto:icd@icdel.com)

* If I have a B.A. degree, do I still have to take the TABE test?
  + You are exempt from TABE testing if you provide documentation of having an Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, Applied Science or Bachelor’s degree or higher from a U.S. accredited institution. You will need to provide a copy of your degree or college transcript. Accreditation must be from one of the following:
    - * Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
      * New England Association of Colleges and Schools
      * North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
      * Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools
      * Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
      * Western Association of Colleges and Schools
* I have a B.A. degree. Do I have to provide a copy of my high school diploma?
  + Yes. Proof of a high school diploma or GED is a requirement set by the State Board of Nursing and Department of Education.
* Do you need official transcripts to support my Degree of just the Degree?
  + A copy of your Degree will suffice.
* When should I take the TEAS test?
  + Given that there is a 30-day waiting period between possible retakes, taking the TEAS sooner would allow for a retake if needed. **Students are permitted to have four (4) TEAS test administrations within a year.** Please note that we are now administering only the TEAS Version 5 on both campuses.
* How long are my TEAS results valid?
  + TEAS scores are valid for two years.
* Do I need to submit the Disclosure Background check form?
  + Yes – You need to submit a copy of the completed form as well as documentation that the form was submitted to EZ Fingerprints for processing. Students must clear a Level 2 with Fingerprinting and, after being accepted into the Practical Nursing program, a 10 Panel Drug Screening.
* How long is the background check valid?
  + The background check is valid for a period of 6 months prior to the start of class. Students who drop and restart the program must resubmit and clear the Level 2 Background Check again at the time of re-entry.
* Where can I get the required immunizations?
  + Click here for a link to the Pinellas County Health Department locations map. <https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#safe=strict&q=Pinellas+County+Health+Department+locations>
* Is there a form that my doctor needs to sign?
  + The form is in the packet. It is the Health Screening Form. There is no one place for your health care professional to sign most just initial next to each immunization that requires documentation or provides other types of documentation that the immunizations have been updated.
* I have an arrest record. Will this affect my admission to the program?
  + Pursuant to Florida Statute 435, certain criminal offenses will disqualify the Licensed Practical Nurse from state licensure and/or employment. All potential students who will be in positions designated by law as positions of trust or responsibility are required to undergo security background investigations as a condition of participation in a clinical setting. Therefore, a prospective student applying to the Practical Nursing Program whose background check reveals any disqualifying offenses, will not be allowed to enter the PN program or will be withdrawn if already started, forfeiting any deposits made.

For more information on this law refer to <http://www.Flsenate.gov/statutes>

Note: For the purpose of these guidelines, criminal convictions mean a conviction by a jury or by a court and shall also include forfeiture of any bail, bond or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed a felony or misdemeanor, the payment of a fine, a plea of nolo contendere, the imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence by the court, adjudication withheld, finding of guilt, a plea of no contest or pre-trail intervention.

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IF:

* Convicted of felony crimes of violence, felony sale of controlled substances, felony sexual related crimes, lewd and lascivious crimes, and indecent exposure and felony child abuse crimes.
* Conviction was within the last 10 years, will consider and carefully review if conviction was beyond 10 years, other felony crimes and any other misdemeanor crimes of a sexual nature, crimes related to children.
* Conviction was within the last 5 years, will consider and carefully review if conviction was committed beyond 5 years. Misdemeanor drugs, misdemeanor crimes of violence, misdemeanor crimes involving weapons.

**The following offenses will require a case-by-care review:**

* Other misdemeanors
* Multiple arrests
* Offenses which are directly related to duties and responsibilities of the clinical experience

Effective July 1, 2009

Pursuant to Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, health care boards or the department shall refuse to issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

1. Convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendre to a felony violation of chapters 409, 817, or 893, Florida Statutes; or 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970 or 42 U.S.C. ss 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application.
2. Terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent five years).
3. Terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent five years).

*Check the* [*Board of Nursing Website*](http://floridasnursing.gov/) *for additional information on the impact of a criminal background on licensing*