

Bucks County Community College
Department of Health Sciences
Associate Degree Nursing

Advanced Placement Policy for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) in Associate Degree Nursing

Policy:

In keeping with the philosophy, vision, and core values of the College as well as the nursing faculty's philosophy of education, the nursing faculty will continue to seek ways to recognize the prior learning that has occurred and is required for practical nursing licensure.

Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is continued exploration and evaluation of trends and opportunities for Licensed Practical Nurses. In keeping with the policy, information available to students will be publicly accessible, clearly explained, and continuously updated to best meet student needs.

Procedure:

I. Criteria to Challenge NURS101 and NURS102

A. **Eligible** Candidates must be a Pennsylvania Licensed Practical Nurse (a current, valid, unencumbered LPN license that reflects an accurate address which must be available through electronic verification on the PA State Board of Nursing Website).

Once criteria are met, preference is given to Bucks County residents who are graduates from:

- The Bucks County Community College LPN Program
- Any accredited school of practical nursing by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326.
- a PA State Board of Nursing-approved School of Nursing

B. Eligible Candidates must be admitted to the College and the Nursing (2035) or Health Sciences (1108, Nurse Potential) Program of Study

Please refer to Admission Criteria published in the College Catalog, on the web at:

<http://www.bucks.edu/catalog/majors/health/nursing/>

NURS101

- Seek advising from the appointed advisor
- Meet Bucks County Community College admission criteria
- Meet high school requirements as specified in the admission criteria
- Must have taken, or have been granted a waiver, for the reading, writing, and math assessment tests
- Curriculum Code must be 2035 (Nursing) or 1108 (Health Science, Nurse Potential)
- A final, official high school transcript or a copy of GED in the Admissions Office
- Meet grade requirements for courses attempted in the Program of Study
 - BIOL181, BIOL182, BIOL228:B or better (must be taken within the last 7 years)

- Must have a C or better in all other courses in major (PSYC110 and HLTH120N must be taken within the last 7 years)
- A minimum GPA of 3.0, earned at Bucks County Community College
- Pre-requisite or co-requisite courses **MUST BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF APPLICATION** with a grade and time limit as documented below:
 - CHEM101 – Chemistry A (C or better)
 - BIOL181 – Human Anatomy and Physiology I (Grade of B, within the past 7 years)
 - COMP110 – English Composition I (C or better)
 - NURS120 – Dosage Calculations (B or better)
- Apply for advanced placement to complete the challenge examination (applications available November 15 - February 15) and can be found at:
<http://www.bucks.edu/academics/departments/health/associate/nursing/>
- A Psychomotor Skills Booklet for NURS101 will be emailed to the applicant with acceptance to challenge.
- Prior to the Challenge, Credit by Examination application, with payment in the amount specified, must be completed and submitted as directed.

The Challenge Examination (clinical competency) for NURS101 will include NURS101 content with a minimum earned score of 73%, as well as a Dosage Calculation Examination of NURS101 content with a minimum earned score of 80% without a calculator.

Theoretical questions related to the following specific competencies:

- Medication administration including a dosage calculation examination (**without a calculator**)
- Administer medications, all routes: PO, IM, SC, and Eye
- Hand washing
- Vital signs: Blood pressure, temperature, pulse, respirations, apical rate, and pulse oximetry
- Intravenous skills - Site assessment, prime lines, delivery systems (primary and secondary infusions), labeling of solutions, and charting
- Assessment - Skin, oral, pulses, respiratory (HIPPA)
- Specimen collection - Collection for culture and sensitivity (C&S)

All components of the examination must be successfully completed. If unsuccessful, the candidate may not challenge NURS102. The candidate may reapply the following year and continue to meet the criteria described above.

NURS102

- **Successfully challenge specific clinical competencies for NURS101**
- Meet grade requirements for courses attempted in the Program of Study
 - BIOL181, BIOL182, BIOL228: B or better, (must be taken within the last 7 years)
 - Must have a C or better in all other courses in major (PSYC110 and HLTH120N must be taken within the last 7 years)
- A minimum GPA of 3.0, earned at Bucks County Community College
- Pre-requisite or co-requisite courses **MUST BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF APPLICATION** with a grade and time limit as documented below:
 - BIOL182 – Human Anatomy & Physiology II (Grade of B or better, in the last 7 years)
 - BIOL228 – Microbiology (Grade of B or better, in the last 7 years)
 - HLTH120N – Nutrition (Grade of C or better, in the last 7 years)

- NURS220 – Health Assessment (Grade of C or better)
- Apply for advanced placement to complete the challenge examination (applications available November 15 - February 15) and can be found at:
<http://www.bucks.edu/academics/department/health/associate/nursing/>
- A Psychomotor Skills Booklet for NURS101 will be emailed to the applicant with acceptance to challenge.
- Prior to the Challenge, Credit by Examination application, with payment in the amount specified, must be completed and submitted as directed.

The Challenge Examination (clinical competency) for NURS102 will include NURS102 content with a minimum earned score of 73%, as well as a Dosage Calculation Examination of NURS102 content with a minimum earned score of 80% without a calculator.

Theoretical questions related to the following specific competencies:

- Medication administration including a dosage calculation examination (**without a calculator**)
- Demonstrate: Intermittent IV antibiotics with saline flush
- Blood Administration: Procedure, equipment, and administration
- Nasogastric tube insertion: Placement, irrigation
- Sterile dressing change - Wound irrigation, with and without a drain
- Foley catheter insertion - Indwelling
- Assessment: Abdomen, musculoskeletal
- Assess for hemorrhage
- Sitz bath
- Safety: Assisting a postoperative patient out of bed; Holding a baby
- Teach- The use of Incentive Spirometer and Peak Flow Meter

All components of the examinations must be successfully completed. If the candidate is unsuccessful, the student may reapply to challenge both courses the following year and continue to meet the current criteria.

THE CHALLENGE EXAMINATION FOR NURS101 AND NURS102 ARE USUALLY HELD ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

II. Requirements upon successful completion of the challenge to NURS101 and NURS102

The LPN who is successful on the challenge examinations must submit the following, **DATED AFTER JUNE 1**, and by a specified date in order to enter NURS201:

- Health Examination
- Immunization Record
- Driver's License
- Negative 2 Step PPD (chest x-ray or lab work if positive)
- FBI Fingerprint Background Check
- PA Criminal Record Check
- Child Abuse Clearance
- 10-Panel drug and alcohol screen
- CPR
- Student Profile Packet
- Completed Registration
- Student Uniforms ordered

III. Graduation

The following courses, in the Program of Study, **MUST BE COMPLETED** before or with NURS201:

PSYC110 – Introduction to Psychology (Grade of C, in the last 7 years)

SOCI110 – Introduction to Sociology

COMP111 – English Composition II

The following courses, in the Program of Study, **MUST BE COMPLETED** before or with NURS202:

COMM110 – Effective Speaking

Arts & Humanities – Refer to the list in the College Catalog

IV. The College Graduation Residency Policy

Requires that a minimum of thirty (30) semester credit hours toward the associate degree **MUST BE EARNED IN GRADED COURSES AT** Bucks County Community College. The credits awarded for the challenge of NURS101 and NURS102 (twelve, 12) *are NOT counted in the 30 credits* because the challenge (CRE X) is not graded, nor are Prior Learning Experience (PLE) credits graded, nor are other challenge by exam credits. Therefore, in order for a student to complete the challenge and be eligible to graduate, the student must complete at least twelve (12) credits here at Bucks County Community College in the AD Nursing Program of Study, in addition to the eighteen (18) credits earned in NURS201 and NURS202. Please see the policy for CRE X, and PLA found on the following website:
<http://www.bucks.edu/academics/pla/testing/>

Approved/adopted:		Target Date: February
Review: 8/15/01, 9/07, 10/15, 5/17, 5/19		Review: Every 3 years
Revised: 10/12; 05/16; 9/20		Director/Faculty