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Practical Nurse Certificate Program

Course Requirements

MAJOR COURSES

	Qtr. hrs. credit	Clock hours
NUR100 Fundamentals of Nursing	5	132

Students learn the components of nursing and the application of techniques and procedures to provide care to patients. Topics include introduction to nursing skills, principles of basic nutrition, basic therapeutic techniques, assessment and communication skills, and advanced therapeutics. Hands-on demonstration, practice, and validation of skills are conducted in the nursing lab.

NUR101 Introduction to Clinical Nursing	1	24
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Students are provided with an introduction to the evolution of nursing and the scope of nursing practice. Concepts of health-illness (a nursing concept), theoretical frameworks, healthcare delivery systems, legal and ethical issues, interpersonal relationships, and health instruction are explored. Review of basic mathematical skills required for accurate medication calculations, dose verification, and medication administration. Metric and apothecary systems as well as conversion units measurement are reviewed. Longhand calculations to be utilized. Hands-on demonstration, practice, and validation of skills are conducted during each class.

NUR123 Practical Nursing Process: Integumentary System	1	12
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Students study the integumentary system, including such topics as anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, SOC225, SCI215
Prerequisite or Corequisite: NUR125

NUR125 Pharmacology	2	46
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Students study the different drug categories and the methods of administration, including oral and by injection. Includes the proper use of the Physicians' Desk Reference (PDR) and how to accurately read, prepare, and call in written prescriptions.

Prerequisites: SCI215, NUR101
Prerequisite or Corequisite: NUR100

NUR126 Practical Nursing Process: Cardiovascular System/Respiratory System	6	132
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Students study the needs and care of patients with cardiac and respiratory issues. Topics include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, NUR125, SCI215, SOC225, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance

NUR127 Practical Nursing Process:	6	132
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Musculoskeletal System/Nervous System

Students study the needs and care of patients with musculoskeletal and nervous system issues. Topics include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, NUR125, SOC225, SCI215, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance

NUR128 Practical Nursing Process: Sensory System

1

12

Students study the needs and care of patients with sensory system issues. Topics covered include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, SOC225, SCI215
Prerequisite or Corequisite: NUR125

NUR131 Practical Nursing Process: Geriatric Nursing/Urinary System

5

118

Students focus on the aging patient and diseases and disorders affecting them and their care. Topics include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, elder abuse, ethical and legal issues, legislation, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, SOC225, SCI215, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance
Prerequisite or Corequisite: NUR125

NUR132 Practical Nursing Process: Acute Care Nursing/Gastrointestinal System

5

108

Students focus on acutely ill patients with gastrointestinal system issues and the management of their care. Topics include illness terminology, anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, response to illness, pre- and post-operative care, infection, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, SOC225, SCI215, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance
Prerequisite or Corequisite: NUR125

NUR221 Practical Nursing Process: Maternity/Newborn Nursing/Child Health Nursing

6

132

Students study the needs and care of patients from conception through childhood. Topics include maternal newborn health, conception and embryology, antepartal period, intrapartal period, postpartum period, newborn, management of health problems, healthcare delivery settings, reactions to hospitalization, childhood illnesses/disorders, outpatient settings, and federal legislation. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, NUR125, SOC225, SCI215, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance

NUR223 Practical Nursing Process: Reproductive System

3

36

Students study both male and female reproductive systems.

Topics include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, NUR125, SOC225, SCI215

NUR232 Practical Nursing Process: Endocrine System/Psychiatric Nursing 5 108

Students study the needs and care of patients with endocrine system issues as well as patients with mental health issues. Topics include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, mental and emotional disorders, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, NUR125, SOC225, SCI215, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance

NUR234 Practical Nursing Process: Hematological/Immunological System/Oncology Nursing 4 96

Students study the needs and care of patients with hematological/immunological conditions with a focus on the oncology patient. Topics include anatomy and physiology, assessment, diseases and disorders, diet therapy, pharmacology, special considerations across the life span, and the nursing process. Hands-on care and management of patients via the nursing process are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: NUR100, NUR101, NUR125, SOC225, SCI215, CPR certification, and completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance

NUR235 Practical Nursing Capstone 8 204

The case study approach is utilized to enhance the student's transition to entry-level practical nursing. Emphasis is placed upon the integration of all aspects of patient care including legal, ethical, and current issues, as well as upon the development of leadership skills in the healthcare setting. Hands-on management and application of the nursing process to patients are conducted in the clinical setting.

Prerequisites: Completion of first four quarters; CPR certification; completion of all departmental physical forms, including purchase of malpractice insurance; and departmental approval

LIBERAL ARTS COURSES

SCI 215 Life Sciences 8 96

Study of the structure and function of the human body. Students are introduced to the various body systems, including the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, sensory, endocrine, respiratory, digestive, urinary, reproductive, hematological/immunological, and cardiovascular. Course includes definitions, terminology, chemical basis of life, and energy, as well as microbiology.

SOC225 Introduction to Psychology 4 48

Examines the basic principles of psychology and their direct application to the understanding of human behavior. Topics include human development, learning, memory, thinking, intelligence, creativity, motivation, emotion, adjustment, perception, abnormal behavior, and therapy.

BUSINESS COURSES

Explores career development opportunities and strategies. Stresses entry-level job requirements and upward career paths. Covers resume writing skills, interviewing techniques, and the importance of professionalism. Continues the student's orientation to Berkeley College's computer framework, which includes content collection and compiling a professional ePortfolio.

72 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

(1460 total clock hours)

The minimum passing grade for a Nursing course (NUR) is a C+. Nursing students who receive a grade of C or below in any NUR course may repeat that course. If the student receives a grade of C or below for the repeated course, the student will be dismissed from the Practical Nurse program. Nursing students who fail two NUR courses, whether in the same quarter or in different quarters, will be dismissed from the Practical Nurse program.

In addition, the minimum passing grade required for Life Sciences (SCI215) and Introduction to Psychology (SOC225) is a C+. Nursing students who receive a grade of C or below in either of these courses may repeat that course. A minimum grade of C+ in the repeated course is required.

Governing regulations may disqualify individuals from obtaining professional certification in this field based upon health or criminal records. Therefore, in addition to meeting the **immunization requirements** of Berkeley College and the State of New Jersey, students applying to the Practical Nurse program must provide authorization for a criminal background check prior to registration and submit a physical assessment by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant prior to participating in clinical rotations.

Extensive criminal background checks may be repeated after admission at the request of clinical facilities; and positive findings may prevent students from completing the clinical portion of the program, graduating, and participating in the State nursing licensure exam. Health requirements required for clinical courses include 12-panel urine drug screening, flu vaccine, skin testing for tuberculosis, and various serum laboratory tests. The costs of these health requirements are borne by the student and may total several hundred dollars.

To qualify for graduation, students must pass all NUR courses, Life Sciences, and Psychology with a minimum grade of C+. Students are required to purchase their own malpractice insurance. There are strict attendance requirements for completion of this program. Nonattendance in either the didactic or clinical portions of the program may result in course failure.

SAMPLE PROGRAM SEQUENCE

1 Practical Nurse Certificate Program Statistics