

Practical Nursing (LPN) Frequently Asked Questions



At Pinnacle School of Nursing we provide our students with all the training required to be successful in their career and the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX-PN. Hands-on learning mixed with instruction by qualified instructors will take your education to the next level.

What is a Practical Nurse and what do they do?

A practical nurse provides basic medical and nursing care to patients as well as checking vital signs, inserting catheters, and assisting with personal care such as bathing. They are able to report patient progress to physicians and discuss procedures and care with patients. A practical nurse is the same thing as an LPN, which is short for Licensed Practical Nurse.

What Is the Difference Between a Practical Nurse and an RN?

RNs require more education such as a 4-year degree, 2-year degree, or completion of a hospital diploma program. LPNs work under the supervision of RNs and are not given the same level of responsibility that an RN typically receives.

How Do You Become a Licensed Practical Nurse?

To become a Licensed Practical Nurse, you'll need to attend an approved program and earn a Diploma in Practical Nursing. Once you achieve this certification, you're able to sit for the NCLEX-PN. When you pass the exam, you'll be given licensure as an entry-level LPN. It will take around a year to achieve LPN status depending on the results of your NCLEX-PN exam.

How old do I have to be to apply to the program?

Age 17 with a parent and/or guardians' permission.

It's been a while since I've been in school is the Practical Nursing Program Hard?

The Practical Nursing program requires the dedication and commitment to study many challenging subjects in nursing, math, anatomy, and pharmacology, which may be tedious. You'll need to complete clinicals at healthcare facilities, which require research and preparation. However, Pinnacle School of Nursing is committed to providing you with everything you need to succeed within the program including hands-on experience, mentoring, student success guidance, tutoring, and evening classes.

Do I have to take an entrance test?

Yes, you will have to take and achieve an acceptable score on the NLN-PAX preadmissions test. Study guides are available.

Do you offer a day and evening program?

Yes, the day program is M-TH 8:30-4:30pm, the evening program is M-TH 5:00-10:00pm.

How many students do you allow in each cohort?

We allow the maximum of 20 students per cohort. We believe when it comes to learning smaller class sizes are better.

I am a male should I apply?

Absolutely, males are welcomed and needed in the field of nursing.

Do you offer financial aid?

Not at this time, but in the near future. We offer equal payment plans spread throughout the 6 phases.

Do you offer grants or loans?

No not at this time. We encourage you to apply to your bank, PayPal, or credit union.

Do you offer scholarships?

Yes, we offer the Mary F. Easley scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 to (2) select students in each cohort who apply, and are chosen by the scholarship committee. Please ask for an application.

Why should I become a Practical Nurse?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of Licensed Vocational Nurses (LPN's and LVN's) is projected to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. Graduates of the Vocational Nursing program will meet eligibility requirements to sit for the state licensing examination, NCLEX-PN.

What are the benefits of being an LPN?

- **Varying work hours:** As an LPN, you can work full-time, part-time, or per-diem. You choose to work shifts that work well with your family. You can work the night shift to spend more time with your family during the day or work in the early morning hours to have more time in the afternoon.
- **Different workplace options:** You can work in various settings: including clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, physician's office, correctional facilities, homes, and more.
- **Fast track career:** You can become an LPN in a little over a year depending on the length of the program.

How soon can I obtain my license after I graduate?

We recommend you test as soon as possible upon graduating. We will prepare you and support you until the day you test and beyond.

What is the Average Salary of an LPN?

According to Payscale.com the average Licensed Practical Nurse salary in the United States is \$49,199 as of April 27, 2020, but the range typically falls between \$44,738 and \$55,085. Salary ranges can vary widely depending on many important factors, including education, certifications, additional skills, the number of years you have spent in your profession.

What is the Employment Outlook for an LPN?

Employment of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (LPNs and LVNs) is projected to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.

As the baby-boom population ages, the overall need for healthcare services is expected to increase. LPNs and LVNs will be needed in residential care facilities and in-home health environments to care for older patients.

A number of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity, have become more prevalent in recent years. LPNs and LVNs will be needed to assist and care for patients with these and other conditions. In addition, many procedures that once could be done only in hospitals are now being done outside of hospitals, creating demand in other settings, such as outpatient care centers.

What are the job prospects for LPN's?

Job prospects should be favorable for LPNs and LVNs who are willing to work in rural and medically underserved areas. Employers also may prefer candidates who have certification in a specialty area such as gerontology or intravenous (IV) therapy.

Can I become a Registered Nurse (RN) in the future?

Yes, we encourage you to further your education in nursing. The field of nursing has grown drastically over the last decade, and as older nurses retire, there will be a need to replace them.

Nursing is an incredible field for those who want a rewarding career that includes helping others. If this is you, nursing is a great choice.

For further information please check out the link below.

Reference:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/licensed-practical-and-licensed-vocational-nurses.htm>