PRACTICAL NURSING — Certificate Program

The practical nursing program at KVCC prepares the student for a technical career in nursing. Employment opportunities include acute care hospitals, long term acute care and extended care facilities, clinics, offices, home health and ambulatory care.

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Practical Nursing program includes one semester of prerequisite course work and three semesters of practical nursing course work for the full-time generic student. Financial aid, scholarships, tutoring, and counseling services are available to assist students.

Upon successful completion of all practical nursing course work the graduate will receive an Certificate and will be eligible to write the National Council Licensure Exam for the Practical Nurse (NCLEX- PN). For information about Michigan requirements for eligibility for nurse licensure visit: https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bpl/health/hp-lic-health-prof/nursing

For additional program information visit www.kvcc.edu/programs/health_careers/pn.php or contact the Nursing Department Office. Email: nursing@kvcc.edu, phone: 269.548.3255.

The Practical Nursing Certificate program is approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing.

Nursing Information Workshops

The Nursing Department offers Information workshops in each semester. At the workshop a program representative gives detailed information about our programs and about the application process. Participation is highly recommend. The workshops are free and open to all prospective students. Please see the "Nursing Information Workshops" on our homepage for schedule and details.

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Getting Started

1. If you are a:
   a. New student - first submit a free, general application online to Kalamazoo Valley Community College at kvcc.edu/apply and select "Health Sciences General Studies – Practical Nursing" (HSGS.NR3) as your program choice.
   b. Current Valley student - if needed, have your program code updated by contacting an academic counselor. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required if you've taken courses at Kalamazoo Valley before.

2. Provide the Admissions, Registration & Records Office with all official college transcripts, if applicable. Be sure to verify their arrival and that you are awarded the required credit to meet prerequisites.

3. Schedule an appointment with an academic counselor or advisor by calling 269.488.4040 to develop a course plan. This is a critical step to complete early in your admission process.

4. Complete the following prerequisite requirements by:
   a. Taking and completing Kalamazoo Valley courses successfully (grades of 2.0 or higher), and/or
   b. Using transfer credit from other colleges when equivalent to the courses listed below.
   c. BIO, HCR and MATH prerequisite courses must be completed within 7 years of the application deadline.
   d. Exceptions to rules can only be determined by the Program Director in consultation with the Dean.

Recommended Full-Time Course Sequence for Required Prerequisite Courses:

BIO 115 (Human Anatomy & Physiology I – 4 credits/6 contact hrs)

ENG 110 (College Writing I – 3 credits/contact hours)

HCR 116 (Medical Terminology – 1 credit/contact hour)

MATH 100 (Health Careers Math – 1 credit/contact hr) NO substitutions for Math 100 credit are acceptable

PSY 150 (Introductory Psychology – 3 credits/contact hours)

Total Credit/Contact Hours: **12 credits / 14 contact hours**

Note:

- BIO 215 (Human Anatomy & Physiology II – 4 credits/6 contact hrs) is part of the program but we encourage students to take it before starting the program.
- Previously required prerequisite course BIO 110 is acceptable till Fall 2029

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Frequently Asked Questions

Applying to the Program

- The online application will be available each year April 1-15. The program starts in the Fall semester.

- Applications can be completed and submitted online during the appropriate time frames here: https://p2.kvcc.edu/utilities/health_careers/

- Students must have successfully completed all prerequisites by the end of the winter semester (typically end of April) to be eligible to apply.

Acceptance

- Admissions decisions will typically be sent to your Kalamazoo Valley email address by June 15.
- The College accepts a maximum of 12 students from each application period.
- The Nursing Department received 51 application for the Fall 2023 program and 66 applications for the Fall 2024 program. Application numbers vary for each application period.
- Kalamazoo Valley's Practical Nursing program does not use a waiting list. Applicants who are not admitted must reapply.

Alternate List

After the top 12 applicants have been determined, the next 3 applicants are designated as alternates in case an admitted student declines their seat. Alternates who are not admitted into the program from the alternate list must reapply and will not receive preferential ranking in the next cycle.

Ranking of Applicants

The college implemented a holistic admission system for entry into nursing programs beginning with the Summer 2022 application. The revised admission system was developed to establish a more equitable process so admitted students will have the best chance of success in their health career program.

- Metrics - Prerequisite GPA (50%)
- Experiences/Attributes -Answer to 4 questions (40%)
- Healthcare Experience (5%)
- Additional Criteria (5%)

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Proof of Healthcare Experience

If you are interested in potentially earning admission points for healthcare experience, please be sure to submit all supporting documentation with your application. Applicants can only receive points in one of these categories.

Examples of supporting documentation include: a copy of your current healthcare license or credential, a copy of your transcript or diploma for degree(s) received, or a letter from your employer specifically detailing skills acquired through on-the-job training, current job tasks, etc. for PCA/CNA (non-credit) training.

- Please note that personal essays or letters of recommendation from employers, family, friends, colleagues cannot be factored into the admission score whatsoever.
- Non-formal experience: explain your experience in 1-2 sentences
- For Associate or Bachelor Degree points students must have a current license/credential in a healthcare occupation that requires an Associate or Bachelor Degree to obtain the license/credential. Examples include: licensed respiratory therapist, dental hygienist, paramedic, registered dietitian, etc.

After Acceptance

- Accepted students receive an email with detailed information regarding the program start and preparation.
- Several items are due prior to the start of class. Examples include, but are not limited to: current American Heart Association "BLS Provider" level CPR certification, specific immunization (see Immunization Requirements on the homepage or contact the Nursing Department for details), Live Scan criminal background check.
  - » Please note that the Live Scan criminal background check and the yearly drug screen will be done ON CAMPUS after you have been accepted into the program.

Working While Enrolled

We strongly recommend that students work as few hours as possible for the most successful outcome. This is considered a full-time program and is rigorous and time consuming.

Nursing Class Schedule

The practical nursing program has implemented a block schedule system to help students consolidate the days required for class. Most courses are in person, theory and lab courses are held in the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building. Schedules will vary by semester.

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Practical Nursing Program Outline

Semester 1 - Fall

BIO 215	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	(Theory/Lab)	4 credits/6 contact hours
LPN 101	Foundations LPN	(Theory)	4 credits/4 contact hours
LPN 103	Foundations LPN Practice	(Lab/Clinic)	4 credits/12 contact hours
LPN 108	Psychosocial LPN	(Theory)	1 credit/1 contact hour

TOTAL: 13 credits/23 contact hours

Semester 2 - Winter

LPN 131	Adult LPN I	(Theory)	3 credits/3 contact hours
LPN 133	Adult LPN Practice I	(Lab/Clinic)	4 credits/12 contact hours
LPN 148	Pharmacotherapeutics LPN I	(Theory)	1 credit/ 1 contact hour
LPN 158	Pharmacotherapeutics LPN II	(Theory/Lab)	2 credit/2.5 contact hours

TOTAL: 10 credits/18.5 contact hours

Semester 3 - Summer

LPN 141	Maternal/Child LPN	(Theory)	2 credits/2 contact hours
LPN 143	Maternal/Child LPN Practice	(Lab/Clinic)	1 credits/3 contact hours
LPN 151	Adult LPN II	(Theory)	3 credits/3 contact hours
LPN 153	Adult LPN Practice II	(Lab/Clinic)	3 credits/9 contact hours
LPN 189	Transition to LPN Practice	(Theory)	1 credit/1 contact hour

TOTAL: 10 credits/18 contact hours

GRAND TOTAL: 45 credits/73.5 contact hours

(Grand total includes prerequisite courses)

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ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATE
Please note: Program requirements are subject to change.

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Approximate cost of Nursing Education - Fall 2024/Summer 2025

	In District	Out of District	Out of State	International
Tuition Rates (per contact hour)	**$127.00**	**$219.00**	**$292.00**	**$331.00**
Student fees/semester	**$167.00**	**$167.00**	**$167.00**	**$167.00**
Prerequisites				
Tuition (14 contact hours)	$1,778.00	$3,066.00	$4,088.00	$4,634.00
Student fees (1 semesters)	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00
Books (approximate)	$650.00	$650.00	$650.00	$650.00
	$2,595.00	**$3,883.00**	**$4,905.00**	**$5,451.00**
Semester 1 Courses				
Tuition (23 contact hours) Student fee	$2,921.00	$5,037.00	$6,716.00	$7,613.00
	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00
HESI Assessment	$315.00	$315.00	$315.00	$315.00
Books (approximate)	$700.00	$700.00	$700.00	$700.00
Uniform (approximate)	$350.00	$350.00	$350.00	$350.00
Clinical Compliance (approximate)	$400.00	$400.00	$400.00	$400.00
	$4,853.00	**$6,969.00**	**$8,648.00**	**$9,545.00**
Semester 2 Courses				
Tuition (18.5 contact hours) Student fee	$2,349.50	$4,051.50	$5,402.00	$6,123.50
	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00
HESI Assessment	$315.00	$315.00	$315.00	$315.00
Books (approximate)	$600.00	$600.00	$600.00	$600.00
	$3,431.50	**$5,133.50**	**$6,484.00**	**$7,060.00**
Semester 3 Courses				
Tuition (18 contact hours)	$2,286.00	$3,942.00	$5,256.00	$5,958.00
Student fee	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00	$167.00
HESI Assessment	$315.00	$315.00	$315.00	$315.00
Clinical Compliance (approximate)	$70.00	$70.00	$70.00	$70.00
Licensing	$550.00	$550.00	$550.00	$550.00
	$3,388.00	**$5,044.00**	**$6,358.00**	**$7,060.00**
GRAND TOTAL:	**$14,267.50**	**$21,029.50**	**$26,395.00**	**$29,261.50**

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Nursing Applicant Checklist

Steps for Eligibility

- ☐ 1. New Student: General application to Kalamazoo Valley (www.kvcc.edu/apply) with program selection of "Health Sciences General Studies – Practical Nursing" (HSGS.NR3).

- ☐ 2. Transferring credit toward a degree at Kalamazoo Valley. Verify their arrival at the Admissions, Registration & Records Office (Phone: 269.488.4281).

- ☐ 3. Verify that all transfer courses meet the prerequisites. Note: Math 100 cannot be substituted with any higher level Math courses.

- ☐ 4. Schedule an appointment with an academic counselor or advisor (Phone: 269.488.4040).

Nursing Application Requirements

- ☐ 1. ALL prerequisite courses successfully completed, or will be by the end of the Winter semester.

- ☐ 2. Apply online at https://p2.kvcc.edu/utilities/health_careers/ during the application period.

- ☐ 3. Upload supporting documentation with the application for points in category Healthcare Experience.

Prerequisite GPA Calculator Worksheet

PREREQUISITE COURSE	A Credit Hours	B Numeric Grade	C Quality Points (A x B = C)
BIO 115 Human Anatomy & Physiology	4		
ENG 110 College Writing I	3		
MATH 100 Health Careers Math	1		
PSY 150 Introductory Psychology	3		
HCR 116 Medical Terminology	1		
TOTALS	12		

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$$\text{Prerequisite GPA} = \frac{\text{Total from Column C (Total Quality Points)}}{\text{Total from Column A (Total Credit Hours)}}$$

Holistic Admission Overview (100 pts max)

- ## Metrics—50%

  Prerequisite GPA (up to 50 pts with sliding scale)

- ## Experiences/Attributes—40%

  10 pts per response with 4 responses

- ## Healthcare Experience—5%

  5 pts max

- ## Additional Criteria—5%

  5 pts max

Metrics: Prerequisite GPA (50 pts max)

Prerequisite GPA	Ranking Points
4.00	50
3.70–3.99	45
3.50–3.69	40
3.30–3.49	35
3.00–3.29	30
2.75–2.99	25
2.50–2.74	20
2.25–2.49	15
2.00–2.24	10

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Experience and Attributes (40 pts max)

Short Answer Question (100 words max) in four areas. Answers should integrate the College's mission statement and values. Responses should utilize correct grammar, spelling and punctuation to receive full points.

Evaluation will be based on the following:
> 0 point - Minimally addressed
>> (very limited thought, ideas loosely connected, not clearly communicated)
> 5 points - Adequately addressed
>> (solid thinking and integration of ideas, reasonably communicated)
> 10 points - Completely addressed
>> (reflective, insightful thinking, ideas carefully connected, well articulated)

Answers should reflect the applicant's personal experiences. The use of AI or plagiarism may disqualify the application.

Areas and sample questions

- Life Experiences - College Values: Excellence and Quality (up to 10 pts)
  Explain why you want to pursue a career in nursing?

- Values and Beliefs - College Values: Humor/Wellbeing, Caring and Respect (up to 10 pts)
  Describe which personal qualities you possess that make you suitable for a career in nursing?

- Integrity - College Values: Integrity (up to 10 pts)
  Provide an example of a barrier or mistake you have experienced. How did you deal with it and what did you learn from it?

- Perspectives/ Leadership - College Values: Teamwork and Stewardship (up to 10 pts):
  Describe a personal experience working with or within a diverse team. Explain what went well and what didn't. What did you learn from the experience?

Healthcare Experience (5 pts max)

Health Occupation License/certificate/non-credit training:

- 5 pts Bachelors (i.e. B.S Registered Dietitian)
- 4 pts Associates (Paramedic)
- 3 pts License (EMT, CMA, RDA)
- 2 pts non-credit training (CNA, PCA, CDA, MFR, Phlebotomy)
- 1 pt. non-formal experience (i.e. caregiver of family)

Additional Criteria (1 pt. each - 5 pts max)

- Lives within KVCC District
- 12 or more credits from Kalamazoo Valley
- Kalamazoo Promise Recipient
- KVAAP
- Veteran
- First-generation College Student
- Early Middle College Student
- KVCC Academic Honor

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