



Dear PN Applicant,

We are happy you are considering the Practical Nursing Program at North Arkansas College. The PN Program has been granted full approval by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and traditionally has a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-PN. We offer two traditional classes a year which start in January & August each year. The courses are blended/online and the program is 11 months in length. Enclosed is additional information concerning each program cohort.

The following information must be completed and submitted by April 15th for the August class, and October 15th for the January class to be considered for admittance into the PN program:

College Admission <http://www.northark.edu/admissions/index>

High School Transcript or GED Scores

PN Program Application

Official College Transcripts -including completed prerequisite courses.

Current CNA certification

If accepted into the program you will also need to submit the following:

Health Statement and Technical Standards Form

Current CPR certification

Immunizations

- Hepatitis B Vaccine Series or positive titer
- MMR-series of two; or Positive Titer for antibodies
- Tuberculosis (TB) Testing (skin test or blood)
- Tdap within last 10 years
- Varicella-series of two vaccines; or positive titer
- Flu Shot
- COVID-19 vaccine series

If you have questions, please call Jennifair Ditmanson, the Director of the Practical Nursing Program at (870) 391-3369. The PN Program faculty wishes you the best in completing the admission process.

Sincerely,

The PN Program Faculty
North Arkansas College

North Arkansas College Practical Nursing Program

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible for admission into the PN Program the student must:

1. be accepted as a student at North Arkansas College (see admission procedures).
2. complete and submit the PN Program application by April 15 for the August class and October 15 for the January class. For the High school class, February 15th for the May class. Applicants applying after the deadline will be considered for admission if space is available and they meet the admission criteria as stated in the admission requirements.
3. have official high school transcript or GED scores sent to the Registrar's Office at Northark.
4. have an official transcript from colleges/universities attended sent to the Registrar's Office at Northark. Must hold a cumulative 2.5 grade point average or higher for entry into the program.
5. complete the prerequisite course BIOL 1434 Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology **or** BIOL 2214 Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 2224 Anatomy and Physiology II with a minimum grade of a "C". Transfer students are required to submit complete official transcripts for all courses. The Registrar's Office will evaluate the transcripts to determine transferability and apply credit as appropriate. These courses must be successfully completed within five years of entry into the program.
6. have a current CNA certification.
7. submit a completed Health Statement and Technical Standards form verifying good physical and mental health.
8. submit to a urine 10-panel drug screen. The drug screen will be administered at any time without warning to the student once the applicant has accepted a spot in the program. A student taking any prescription drug that will or may show up in a drug screen must be able to produce a valid drug prescription in their name. If the screen comes back positive or if the student refuses a drug screen, then the student forfeits their place in the program.
9. submit the following immunizations:
 - **MMR** – Two MMRs or a positive rubella titer for antibodies
 - **Hepatitis B**- three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine, followed by evidence that the full three-dose series was completed within eight months of the first dose, unless the Heplisav -B two dose series was administered, or a positive Hepatitis B surface antibody titer.
 - **TDaP** within the last 10 years. The Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) immunization is needed every 10 years to remain protected.
 - **Tuberculosis (TB) Testing** –two negative TB skin tests within the year prior to the start of the program. A QuantiFERON-TB Gold or T-SPOT (interferon-gamma release assay) may be provided in place of the skin test. If a negative TB testing cannot be provided, a certification of health or a physician's statement verifying the student is disease-free must be submitted. Individuals with positive test results must provide evidence of a negative chest x-ray and a physician's statement confirming that the individual is free of the active disease.
 - **Varicella** – series of two vaccines or positive titer.
 - **Influenza Vaccination** – an annual flu shot is required each fall.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccine**- Students who have received the COVID-19 vaccine should provide documentation of the shot. Students who have not received the vaccine may complete a declination form, which will be provided by the PN program.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure immunizations are current for the duration of the program. Students who are not in compliance with these requirements will be unable to meet clinical requirements and will be dismissed from the program. Revised 10/2025

10. be certified in **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** "Healthcare Provider Course" prior to entry in the PN Program. Students must maintain certification throughout the program. CPR must be obtained through the American Heart Association. If the current certification expires prior to graduation, then a new certification is required by the start of the program.
11. be provided malpractice insurance which is obtained through paying student fees.
12. students who are offered a place in an entering class must accept via e-mail or in writing by the date indicated on the acceptance letter or the position will be given to the next alternate.
13. attend an all-day orientation session prior to starting the program.
14. submit **to a criminal background check** prior to attending any clinical experience. If you have pled guilty or been convicted of a crime, you must check this on the PN Program application. For further information regarding gaining licensure in the state of Arkansas after being convicted of a crime see the Nurse Practice Act Subchapter 3 17-87-312.
15. be able to attend clinical. If for any reason (Criminal Background, positive drug screen, previous employment, etc.) a clinical site will not allow the student to attend clinical, then the student will not be able to fulfill the clinical requirements the program and will be dismissed from the PN Program

Falsification of any information in the application process may result in dismissal from the program.

ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM:

Once the completed application file is submitted to the PN program, acceptance into the program will be based on the following:

- Cumulative Grade Point Average- 4.0-3.5 = 50, 3.4-3.0 = 40, 2.9-2.5 = 30
- Points for completing BIOL 1434 Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology- A=50, B=30, C=20
- Points for completing each of the following: BIOL 2214 Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 2224 Anatomy and Physiology II- A=25, B=15, C=10
- Points for completing Medical Terminology, Math for Career and Technology, other science courses, English Comp I, English Comp II, General Psychology, Intro to Information Technology, and Developmental Psychology (These courses are not PN Program required pre-requisites, but will help to increase points for acceptance) A=15, B=10, C=5
- Points for CNA or medical related work history of 3 months or 120 hours = 10 points
- Boone County Resident =5 points

All applicants will be ranked numerically and placed into the available openings according to their rank.

All applicants will be notified as to whether they have been accepted into the program, are an alternate (will be accepted if a position opens) or have been denied.

***Non-English-speaking students shall meet the same admission criteria as other students and pass an English proficiency exam.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT:

To consider advance placement in the PN program, the candidate must furnish a transcript and course description including hours of previous training and a letter of reference from the previous Practical Nurse program's chairperson to the PN Program Director.

CURRICULUM PLAN - AUGUST CLASS

Fall Semester

Week 1-16

PN 1012 Nursing of the Geriatric patient (10 weeks) – Blended, Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.
PN 1005 Pharmacology – Blended, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
PN 1105 Basic Nursing Principles and Skills – Face to Face Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
PN 1013 Clinical I & PN 1023 Clinical II - Thursday, and Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Spring Semester

Week 1-8

PN 2002 Nursing of Mother and Infant- Blended, Monday and Wednesday, 8:10 a.m. 10:00a.m.
PN 2004 Nursing of Adults I – Blended, Monday and Wednesday, 10:10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
PN 2003 Clinical III – Thursday and Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Week 8-16

PN 2112 Nursing of Children – Blended, Monday and Wednesday, 8:10 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
PN 2014 Nursing of Adults II – Blended, Monday and Wednesday, 10:10a.m.-3:00p.m.
PN 2013 Clinical IV – Wednesday, and Thursday, 6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Summer Semester

Week 1-8

PN 2001 Mental Health – Online
PN 2111 Leadership and Management – Online
PN 2104 Clinical V – Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 6:30 – 3:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM PLAN -JANUARY CLASS

Spring Semester

Week 1-16

PN 1012 Nursing of the Geriatric patient (10 weeks) – Blended, Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.
PN 1005 Pharmacology – Blended, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
PN 1105 Basic Nursing Principles and Skills – Face to Face Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
PN 1013 Clinical I & PN 1023 Clinical II - Thursday, and Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Summer Semester

Week 1-8

PN 2002 Nursing of Mother and Infant – Blended, Monday and Thursday, 8:10 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
PN 2004 Nursing of Adults I – Blended, Monday and Thursday, 10:10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
PN 2003 Clinical III – Tuesday and Wednesday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fall Semester

Week 1-8

PN 2112 Nursing of Children – Blended, Tuesday and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
PN 2014 Nursing of Adults II – Blended, Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
PN 2013 Clinical IV – Wednesday and Thursday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Week 9-16

PN 2001 Mental Health – Online
PN 2111 Leadership and Management – Online
PN 2104 Clinical V – Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The curriculum in the PN Program is a full-time program, requiring full-time commitment from the students. Computer and internet access is a requirement for all PN students, due to classes being blended/online. The faculty of the PN Program strongly discourages students from full-time or part-time employment. Students with financial difficulties should discuss alternatives to employment with the Financial Aid Office. The students schedule requires a flexible lifestyle as clinical experience is held at area facilities during assigned hours which may include days and/or evenings. Because of this, transportation, childcare, and any employment should be considered prior to entry into the program. Some classes may require more than the scheduled time (i.e. individual practice time in the nursing lab) for an individual student to meet the learning objectives. Students should plan schedules to be able to meet these learning expectations.

Practical Nursing Program Cost Analysis

Prerequisites

Tuition	<i>Boone County Residents</i>	\$ 476.00
	<i>Out-of-County Residents</i>	\$ 536.00
	<i>Contiguous County Residents</i>	\$ 656.00
	<i>Out-of-State Residents</i>	\$ 836.00
Student Fees & Textbooks		\$ 527.25

January or August Start Date-Semester 1 (16 weeks)

Tuition	<i>Boone County Residents</i>	\$ 2,142.00
	<i>Out-of-County Residents</i>	\$ 2,412.00
	<i>Contiguous County Residents</i>	\$ 2,952.00
	<i>Out-of-State Residents</i>	\$ 3,762.00
Student Fees & Textbooks		\$ 3,793.16

January Start -Semester 2 (8 weeks) or August Start-Semester 3 (8 weeks)

Tuition	<i>Boone County Residents</i>	\$ 1,071.00
	<i>Out-of-County Residents</i>	\$ 1,206.00
	<i>Contiguous County Residents</i>	\$ 1,476.00
	<i>Out-of-State Residents</i>	\$ 1,881.00
Student Fees & Textbooks		\$ 1,088.21

January Start -Semester 3 (16 weeks) or August Start-Semester 2 (16 weeks)

Tuition	<i>Boone County Residents</i>	\$ 1,785.00
	<i>Out-of-County Residents</i>	\$ 2,010.00
	<i>Contiguous County Residents</i>	\$ 2,460.00
	<i>Out-of-State Residents</i>	\$ 3,135.00
Student Fees & Textbooks		\$ 1,935.00

Total Program Cost

<i>Boone County Residents</i>	\$12,817.62
<i>Out-of-County Residents</i>	\$13,507.62
<i>Contiguous County Residents</i>	\$14,887.62
<i>Out-of-State Residents</i>	\$16,957.62

Criminal Background Check Requirements

In accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act, Subchapter 3 (17-87-312: Criminal Background Checks), all students enrolled in the PN Program are required to complete a criminal background check during the final eight (8) weeks of the program.

Licensure Requirements

All individuals seeking initial licensure as a nurse in Arkansas must undergo a criminal background check at both the state and federal levels.

Please note:

- **A student may successfully complete the PN Program yet still be ineligible to take the licensure examination if the background check reveals disqualifying information.**
- Under Nurse Practice Act Subchapter 3 (17-3-102), any applicant who has been convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or entered a plea of nolo contendere for certain offenses is not eligible for licensure in Arkansas.

Waiver Eligibility

Subchapter 3 (17-3-102) also allows individuals to request a waiver of certain licensure disqualifications, depending on the offense and circumstances. Waiver approval is not guaranteed and is determined by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

Additional Information

Students with questions or concerns about these requirements, specific offenses, or the waiver process should contact the Director of the PN Program for guidance.

NURSE PRACTICE ACT SUBCHAPTER 3 - LICENSING

17-87-312 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(a)

- (1) Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall apply to the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (2) At the time a person applies to an Arkansas nursing educational program, the program shall notify the applicant in writing of the provisions and requirements of this section.

- (b) The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.
- (c) The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Division of Arkansas State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.
- (d) Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant.
- (e) For purposes of this section, the board shall follow the licensing restrictions based on criminal records under § 17-3-102.

(f)

- (1) The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit for licensure to a first-time applicant pending the results of the criminal background check.
- (2) The permit shall be valid for no more than six (6) months.

(g)

- (1) Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State

Police under this section shall not be available for examination except by:

- (A) The affected applicant for licensure or his or her authorized representative; or
- (B) The person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative.

(2) No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

(h) Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.

(i) Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.

(j) The board shall adopt the necessary rules to fully implement the provisions of this section.

(k)

(1) The board may participate at the state and federal level in programs that provide notification of an arrest subsequent to an initial background check that is conducted through available governmental systems.

(2) The board may submit an applicant's fingerprints to the federal Next Generation Identification system.

(3) The fingerprints may be searched by future submissions to the Next Generation Identification system, including latent fingerprint searches.

(4) An applicant enrolled in the Next Generation Identification system is not required to re-fingerprint when a subsequent request for a state or federal criminal history background check is required if:

(A) A legible set of the applicant's fingerprints is obtained when the applicant enrolls in the Next Generation Identification system; and

(B) (B) The applicant is subject to the Rap Back service of the Next Generation Identification system.

(l) The Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may maintain fingerprints in the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Revised 12/2023

17-3-102. Licensing restrictions based on criminal records.

(a) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by a licensing entity if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq., or otherwise previously sealed, pardoned or expunged under prior law:

(1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;

(2) Murder in the first degree and second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and 5-10- 103;

(3) Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;

(4) Negligent homicide as prohibited in § 5-10-105;

(5) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;

(6) False imprisonment in the first degree as prohibited in § 5- 11-103;

(7) Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in § 5-11- 106;

(8) Robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-102;

(9) Aggravated robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-103;

(10) Battery in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-201;

(11) Aggravated assault as prohibited in § 5-13-204;

- (12) Introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in § 5-13-210;
- (13) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
- (14) Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301;
- (15) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
- (16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110;
- (17) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;
- (18) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 — 5-14-127;
- (19) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
- (20) Offenses against the family as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 — 5-26-306;
- (21) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree, as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
- (22) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
- (23) Permitting the abuse of a minor as prohibited in § 5-27-221;
- (24) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 — 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;
- (25) Computer child pornography as prohibited in § 5-27-603;
- (26) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605;
- (27) Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
- (28) Theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;
- (29) Theft by receiving as prohibited in § 5-36-106;
- (30) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;
- (31) Burglary as prohibited in § 5-39-201;
- (32) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, §§ 5-64-101 — 5-64-510, as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401, and §§ 5-64-419 — 5-64-442;
- (33) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-70-104;
- (34) Stalking as prohibited in § 5-71-229;
- (35) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy, as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection; and
- (36) All other crimes referenced in this title.

(b)

1) If an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section, a licensing entity may waive disqualification or revocation of a license based on the conviction if a request for a waiver is made by:

- (A) An affected applicant for a license; or
- (B) The individual holding a license subject to revocation.

(2) A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:

- (A) The age at which the offense was committed;
- (B) The circumstances surrounding the offense;
- (C) The length of time since the offense was committed;

- (D) Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;
- (E) Employment references since the offense was committed;
- (F) Character references since the offense was committed;
- (G) Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
- (H) Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.

(3) The waiver requirements of this section are not required for a renewal of a license if an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section and has either:

- (A) Completed the waiver requirements of this section at his or her initial licensure;
- (B) Been licensed in this state before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section; or
- (C) Attended a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.

(c) If an individual has a valid criminal conviction for an offense that could disqualify the individual from receiving a license, the disqualification shall not be considered for more than five (5) years from the date of conviction or incarceration or on which probation ends, whichever date is the latest, if the individual:

- (A) Was not convicted for committing a violent or sexual offense; and
- (B) Has not been convicted of any other offense during the five-year disqualification period.

(d) A licensing entity shall not, as a basis upon which a license may be granted or denied:

- (1) Use vague or generic terms, including without limitation the phrase "moral turpitude" and "good character"; or
- (2) Consider arrests without a subsequent conviction.

(e) Due to the serious nature of the offenses, the following shall result in permanent disqualification for licensure, regardless of the date of conviction or the date on which probation or incarceration ends unless a waiver is granted under subsection (b) of this section:

- (1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
- (2) Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;
- (3) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
- (4) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
- (5) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
- (6) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;
- (7) Sexual assault in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-14-124 and sexual assault in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-14-125;
- (8) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
- (9) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
- (10) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
- (11) Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in § 5-28-103; and
- (12) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301; and
- (13) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of

minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in § 5-27-303 -- 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403.

(f) This chapter does not preclude a licensing entity from taking emergency action against a licensee as authorized under § 25-15-211 for the sake of public health, safety, or welfare.

(g) The disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (a) of this section and the disqualification of an offense listed in subsection (e) of this section do not apply to:

- (1) An individual who holds a valid license on July 24, 2019;
- (2) An individual who holds a valid license on or before July 24, 2019, but failed to renew his or her license for any reason; or
- (3) An individual who was a student on or before July 24, 2019, in a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.

(h) This section does not apply to licensure or certification:

- (1) Of professions not governed by this title;
- (2) Of polygraph examiners and voice stress analysis examiners under § 17-39-101 et seq.;
- (3) Of private investigators and private security agencies under the Private Security Agency, Private Investigator, and School Security Licensing and Credentialing Act § 17-40-101 et seq.;
- (4) Of body artists under § 17-26-601 et seq. who hold a valid license on or before July 1, 2024; or
- (5) Of cosmetologists licensed under Title 17, Chapter 26, Subchapter 3.

Revised 10/2023