



PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Information Packet

2025-2026 Academic Year

Quinebaug Valley Campus – Willimantic Site

729 Main Street

Willimantic, CT 06226

<https://ctstate.edu/selective-admissions>

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Introduction

The Connecticut State Community College Practical Nursing Program is an accelerated 54-credit certificate program offered at Quinebaug Valley campus, Willimantic location. The aligned nursing curriculum is designed to prepare students over four semesters; Summer, Fall Spring, Summer.

The practical nursing certificate program includes courses in fundamentals, medical-surgical, maternal-child, well child, and mental health nursing. These courses provide a foundation for students to develop the skills and knowledge for living in a complex, diverse, and changing world. The design of the nursing curriculum is guided by local, regional, and national standards and is based on healthcare trends, higher education practices, and the nursing discipline. Curricular concepts introduced throughout the nursing program help students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become safe and competent entry-level practical nurses. This educational experience offers active and diverse learning experiences in classrooms and in multiple clinical settings such as hospitals, clinics, schools, and subacute or long-term care facilities. Upon successful completion of the Practical Nursing program, the college awards the graduate a certificate in practical nursing.

After the certificate is awarded, the graduate is eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensing Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The CT State Community College Practical Nursing Program has not determined if the certificate of practical nursing program meets the state education requirements in any other state, any U.S. Territory, or the District of Columbia (US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL NURSING LICENSURE STATEMENT (REGULATION 34 CFR 668.43 (A) (5) (V). Applicants should investigate licensure requirements before accepting admission to any CT State Practical Nursing program.

The licensure boards in each state are responsible for establishing the requirements for licensure/certification for their state. Students who intend to seek licensure in any state other than Connecticut need to consult with the state professional licensing board. The state professional licensing boards decide whether an individual is eligible for licensure based on the rules and regulations in place when the individual submits their application for licensure. Websites for each State Regulatory Agency for Nursing can be found at this link: www.ncsbn.org/14730.htm

Approval and Accreditation

The practical nursing program at CT State Community College at Quinebaug Valley campus is approved by the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing as a collaborative with the consent of the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH). Upon the completion of the practical nursing program's first year, an application will be submitted to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) as per their standards and policies located at: 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326 Phone: 404-975-5000 Fax: 404-975-5020 web address: <https://www.acenursing.org/> email: info@acenursing.org

Practical Nursing Program of Study

Required Prerequisite Courses		
+ENG 1010	English Composition	3 credits
+PSY 1011	General Psychology I	3 credits
+PSY 2001	Life Span Development	3 credits
+BIO 1111	Cell Biology with Organ System	4 credits
		Total: 13 credits
Semester One (10 weeks) Summer		
PNUR 1001	Professional Development I	3 credits
PNUR 1002	Pharmacology	3 credits
		Total: 6 credits
Semester Two (15 weeks) Fall		
PNUR 1000	Fundamentals of Nursing	10 credits
PNUR 1003	Clinical I- Fundamentals	2 credits
		Total: 12 credits
Semester Three (15 weeks) Spring		
PNUR 1025	Maternal and Well Child Clinical	1 credit
Week 1-15		Total: 1 credit
PNUR 1010	Maternal Child Nursing (1 st 7 weeks)	3 credits
PNUR 1030	Medical -Surgical I (1 st 7 weeks)	7 credits
Semester 3A Week 1-7		Total: 10 credits
PNUR 1020	Well Child (2 nd 7 weeks)	3 credits
PNUR 1040	Medical – Surgical II (2 nd 7 weeks)	7 credits
Semester 3B Week 8-14		Total: 10 credits
15-week Total		21 credits
Semester Four (10 weeks) Summer		
PNUR 1050	Medical- Surgical III	7 credits
PNUR 1060	Mental Health Nursing	6 credits
PNUR 1070	Professional Development II	2 credits
		Total: 15 credits

+ See Course Descriptions - Connecticut State Community College - Acalog ACMST™ (ctstate.edu) for prerequisite requirements. Courses have requirements that must be successfully completed prior to taking the course. ***A grade of C is required for all co-requisite courses in the nursing program of study***Nursing courses must be taken in the stated sequence. Students who fail to complete the required co-requisite courses will not be allowed to progress in the program.

Total General Education Course Credits	13 credits
Nursing Course Credits (as mandated by DPH regulation)	<u>54 credits (1500 clock hours)</u>
Total Program Credits	67 credits

Nursing Course Exemption

There are **no** nursing course exemptions for nursing courses within the practical nursing program curriculum. Students transferring from a pre-licensure nursing program or discipline must take all practical nursing courses.

Admission into the Practical Nursing Program Policies

All courses in the practical nursing curriculum plan must be taken as scheduled in the published plan. Students must complete the practical nursing program within five (5) semesters after entering the nursing program course sequence as offered (PNUR1001 and PNUR1002) for the first time. All candidates for admission to the Practical Nursing Program will be evaluated by the Selective Admissions Office to validate their compliance with the following Practical Nursing Program Admission Policy requirements.

To be considered for admission to the practical nursing program, the following documents must be submitted to CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley Campus Selective Admissions Office:

1. Satisfactory evidence of graduating from high school or having earned a GED.
2. **TEAS: Unofficial TEAS scores and tests will not be accepted.**
 - a. Tests taken within the last 3 years will only be accepted.
 - b. **ONLY** the **most recent** TEAS score will be accepted.
 - c. Official score results for the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam score of **55.4%** or higher to be eligible to apply for admission.
 - d. Information about the test content and resources to prepare for the exam can be found at <https://www.atitesting.com/teas-prep>
3. Proof of completion of the 4 pre-requisite courses with an achieved score of **C** or higher.

ENG 1010	English Composition
PSY 1011	General Psychology 1
PSY 2001	Life Span Development
BIO 1111	Cell Biology with Organ System

BIO 1111- *Cell Biology with Organ System* may be substituted with the successful completion of Anatomy & Physiology I with an earned grade of C or better within the last 5 years (*Please note ASN programs require C+ or greater*)

4. Provide documentation for being compliant with the immunization requirements specified by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Additional immunization requirements will be required for clinical experiences.
5. Nursing Course Exemption

There are **no** nursing course exemptions for nursing courses within the practical nursing program curriculum. Students transferring from a pre-licensure nursing program or discipline must take all nursing courses in the practical nursing program curriculum.

Application Process

1. The application period for the nursing program opens on February 1, 2025, and will close on April 15, 2025.
2. Applicants to the CT State Community College Practical Nursing Program must create an Admissions Application Account online. Please use a personal email account to create your application. Do Not use a college, university, or high school assigned email account.
3. Applicants should use a personal computer (not a smart phone, iPad, or Macintosh) when attempting to access the online application.
4. Recommended browsers are Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge and Firefox. DO NOT use Internet Explorer. Make sure your browser allows pop-ups.
5. Applicants may only submit one application to the Practical Nursing Program.
6. All supplemental documentation must be submitted online in your Admissions Application Account.
7. Applicants should contact ctstate-selectiveadmissions@ct.edu if assistance is needed.
8. ALL communication from the Practical Nursing Selective Admissions Team will be through the email used when your Admissions Application Account was created.

APPLY HERE

<https://ctstate.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fApply>

Application Checklist

Items to Complete by date to be determined	How to Complete	✓
1. Create an Admissions Application Account and submit an online application.		
Continuing or returning CT Community College students who do not have an Admissions Application Account: Create an Admissions Application Account and submit an application online; select 'Nursing and Health Careers' as Area of Interest and select 'Practical Nursing-Certificate.' as your Academic Program.	Go to APPLY HERE (not active yet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on 'Create Account'. • After you submit application, go to 'View', then 'Supplemental Items' to upload required items. • Proof of high school completion and immunizations must be uploaded unless provided for a fall 2024 or later application. *NEW for 2025-2026 applications. 	
Students who already have an Admissions Application Account: Log in to start a new application; select 'Nursing and Health Careers' as Area of Interest and select 'Practical Nursing-Certificate.' as your Academic Program.	LOG IN TO YOUR ADMISSIONS APPLICATION ACCOUNT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click 'Create a New Application'. • After you submit application, go to 'View', then 'Supplemental Items' to upload required items. • Proof of high school completion and immunizations must be uploaded unless provided for a fall 2024 or later application. *NEW for 2025-2026 applications. 	
Students who have never applied online to CT State or any of the 12 CT Community colleges: Create an Admissions Application Account and submit an application online; select 'Nursing and Health Careers' as Area of Interest and select 'Practical Nursing-Certificate' as your Academic Program.	Go to APPLY HERE (not active yet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on 'Create Account'. • After you submit application, go to 'View', then 'Supplemental Items' to upload required items. 	
2. Provide proof of high school graduation or equivalency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official high school transcripts, high school diploma with date of graduation, General Educational Development (GED) diploma, OR State High School Equivalency diploma. 	Upload a picture of high school diploma or contact your high school and request to have final transcript sent electronically to CT State Community College. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the issuing agency for other proof of graduation options. 	

<p>3. Provide proof of immunizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two doses of MMR and Varicella 	<p>Upload documentation from your Health Care Provider in your Admissions Application Account.</p>	
<p>4. Submit ALL official College/University transcripts ever attended (including other countries), regardless of age of transcript or coursework attempted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT Community College students do not need to submit transcripts for any prior credits earned at any CT Community College. • Only final transcripts will be considered complete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all colleges /universities outside of the CT Community College system, contact each college/university and request transcripts be sent electronically to CT State Community College [CTState-TranscriptEval@ct.edu.] <p>This includes the 4 CT State Universities and UCONN. If an electronic transcript is unavailable, a hard copy may be sent to CT State Community College, ATTN: Admissions, Transcript Evaluation 185 Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051.</p>	
<p>5. Submit official TEAS results.</p> <p>Unofficial TEAS scores and tests will not be accepted. Tests taken date range to be determined.</p> <p>Only the <u>most recent</u> TEAS score will be accepted. Applicants must obtain an adjusted individual total score of 55.4% or higher to be eligible to apply for admission.</p>	<p>Results of TEAS taken at Quinebaug Valley campus are electronically submitted to CT State Community College provided you include your Banner/Student ID on your ATI account profile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the test is not taken at or through a CT State Community College Campus, request to have the score sent to CTState-SelectiveAdmissions@ct.edu at the time that you take the test. You may also go to www.atitesting.com to request the official post-test results date. 	
<p>6. Courses required for eligibility completed before the admission deadline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENG*1010: English Composition or equivalent: C or greater • BIO*1111: Cell Biology with Organ System: C or greater and completed within 5 years of start date. • PSY 1011: General Psychology 1: C or greater • PSY 2011: Life Span Development 1: C or greater 		

Application Submission

Once you click 'Submit', you will see 'Summer 2025-Practical Nursing' listed under "My Applications".

- Next to your application, look for the "ACTION" column and click "View."
- Click on the header "Supplemental Items and Documents." Items with the red asterisk* are required.
- Status of items will update.

After you have applied, you can view a real-time list of items to upload or request:

- Log in to your admissions application account.
- Next to your application, look for the "ACTION" column and click "View."
- Click on the header "Supplemental Items and Documents." Items with the red asterisk* are required.
- ALL communication from the Practical Nursing Selective Admissions Team will be through the email used when your Admissions Application Account was created. Be certain to note which email address was used to create your account, as well as the password used at the time of application.
- Students are required to log into their admissions application account to check the status of required items. Please check Spam and Junk email folders, as well.
- Once your application is reviewed, items will show as 'Received' if they meet the minimum requirements. Note that this will likely be after the application period closes.

Incomplete Application

All applicants will receive emails throughout the admissions process. It is the student's responsibility to log into their admissions application account to check the status of required items. If missing items are not submitted by specified application due date, you will be ineligible for the Practical Nursing program.

Transfer Courses

To transfer non-nursing courses, a minimum grade of C is required from regionally accredited colleges, unless otherwise noted by the admission requirements. Courses from colleges that are not regionally accredited will not be accepted in transfer.

- Transfer credits/courses for evaluation for practical nursing applicants is completed by CT State Community College at the time of acceptance to the nursing program.

Selection and Decisions

Applicants who have submitted all required credentials and met all application and admission requirements by the defined deadlines will be considered eligible.

All applicants will be notified by email. Three possible decisions:

- Admitted Student – all necessary acceptance documents will be posted in your Admissions Application Account. [Admitted students are required to accept their seat in their Admissions Application Account by date to be determined.]
- Waitlisted Student – eligible applicant but not enough spaces. An email will be sent to indicate exact placement on the waitlist at the College Campus.
- Ineligible Student - due to missing requirements.

One-time deferral: Accepted applicants can defer their admission one-time for one-year, and only at their program of choice, with approval by the Program Administrator.

Test for Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)

TEAS (Test for Essential Academic Skills) assesses academic preparedness for health science programs in math, science, reading, and English. The test takes approximately 3 ½ hours to complete. Test dates cannot be rescheduled. Test fees are non-refundable.

- Applicants must obtain an adjusted individual total score of **55.4%** or higher to be eligible to apply for admission.
- TEAS must be taken within the last 3 years.
- There is no limit to the number of times an applicant can take the TEAS; however, **only the most recent TEAS score will be used when determining eligibility.**
- A study manual and online practice tests for the TEAS are available through www.atitesting.com
- The TEAS is administered at Quinebaug Valley. Applicants must have official results sent by ATI to the CT State College Campus by the application deadline.
- If you take the TEAS through CT State Community College and enter your Banner/Student ID number in your profile at the time you take the test, we will receive your results.
- If you take the TEAS outside of the CT State Community College system, you can either request to have the score sent to CT State Community College immediately after you complete the test OR you may log back into your account at a later time to request the score be sent to CT State.
- Do not wait until you have your TEAS results to submit your Practical Nursing application. You can submit the application and all other materials prior to taking the TEAS.
- For testing schedules and registration information, go to www.atitesting.com. Go to TEAS, then register for TEAS. You may take the TEAS online or in person.

Additional Information for Accepted Nursing Students Clinical Learning Experiences

- Clinical experiences may be assigned during daytime, evening, or weekend hours.
- Clinical assignments in all courses are subject to change based upon availability of clinical sites and the number of students in clinical groups.
- Clinical sites can be within an hour's radius of the college and may require mandatory parking fees.
- Students must make their own travel arrangements during the program.
- Students will receive a packet of information at the time of acceptance to the program which outlines current nursing program specific immunization policies.
- A completed Practical Nursing Health Form (which documents specific requirements for the nursing program) must be on file in accordance with college policy.
- Clinical learning experiences are planned as an integral part of nursing courses and are held at a variety of healthcare settings, such as hospitals, extended care facilities, and selected community settings.
- Assignment of clinical sites is at the discretion of the nursing faculty and subject to change.

Strategies for Success

Nursing Programs are time intensive. *Some of the following suggestions may assist students in time management and program success:*

- Plan for two or more hours of preparation for each hour of class.
- Plan for at least two hours of preparation for each clinical experience.
- Plan for at least one hour of preparation for each hour of a nursing lab.
- *Working can interfere with academic success. Be realistic about your work schedule.*
- Students are strongly discouraged from working nights prior to a daytime clinical experience, class or college lab. Sleep deprivation may result in unsafe behaviors which jeopardize patient and student safety.
- Due to the interactive nature of teaching and learning in the nursing program, students should have convenient access to a Wi-Fi connection to support effective use of teaching and learning resources (e.g., digital textbooks and learning tools).
- A nursing student fee is assessed each semester to cover standardized assessment testing throughout the program and a National Council Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) review course at the end of the program. Standardized testing addresses students' potential for success in the program as well as success on the NCLEX-PN.

Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification

Students are required to provide documentation of current professional level certification in Basic Life Support (BLS). Courses meeting this requirement are: American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Professionals OR the American Red Cross Basic Life

Support (BLS) for Healthcare. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the clinical learning experience.

Criminal Background Check, Toxicology Screening & Healthcare

Professional/Practice/Licensure or Registry Restrictions Due to clinical learning affiliate requirements, criminal background checks and toxicology (drug) screening may be required for all Practical Nursing students prior to participation in clinical experiences. Students must follow instructions for obtaining a background and/or toxicology screening at college of attendance. Students found guilty of committing a felony/misdemeanor and/or a positive toxicology screen may be prevented from participating in clinical experiences in accordance with clinical learning facility policy. Results of student background checks and toxicology screening do not become a part of the student's educational record, as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). If a student cannot participate in a clinical rotation at an assigned facility, they will not be able to complete the course objectives and will be dismissed from the program.

Felony Conviction

At the time of application for PN licensure, an applicant will be asked the following question by the Connecticut Department of Public Health: "Have you ever been found guilty or convicted as a result of an act that constitutes a felony under the laws of this state, federal law or the laws of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a felony under the laws of this state? If your answer is "yes", give full details, dates, etc. on a separate notarized statement and furnish a Certified Court Copy (with court seal affixed) of the original complaint, the answer, the judgment, the settlement, and/or the disposition." The Connecticut Department of Public Health reviews and makes all decisions regarding these cases.

Health Requirements

Applicants are required to have 2 doses of MMR and a varicella vaccine. Additionally, students working in healthcare settings will need proof of immunity to diseases and additional vaccinations as required by various healthcare facilities. Specific requirements will be on the Practical Nursing health form which must be on file per program policy. Failure to comply with clinical facility health care requirements will result in exclusion from the clinical experience and ultimately, prevent a student from meeting program outcomes for graduation.

Program Cost

Tuition and fees for CT State CC Practical Nursing students can be found at <http://www.ct.edu/admission/tuition>. Nursing students will incur additional fees including a clinical program fee and the Student Assessment Fee. Additional expenses specific to the nursing program relate to essential requirements of the program such as clinical uniforms and supplies, health, immunization, toxicology screening, and background checks. Approximate additional costs are listed on page 15.

Waiver of Licensure Guarantee

Upon successful completion of the Practical Nursing Certificate, the graduate meets the educational requirements to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN). Graduation from Practical Nursing does not guarantee licensure to practice nursing; licensure requirements and procedures are the responsibility of the State Board of Nursing where the graduate seeks to be licensed as an PN. Permission to take the NCLEX-PN examination is established by law and granted by each State Board of Nursing. For example, at the time of application for a license as an PN in any state, an applicant may be asked about felony conviction. All licensure decisions regarding cases of felony convictions are made by the respective State Board(s) of Nursing.

Continuing Notice of Nondiscrimination

Continuing Notice of Nondiscrimination Connecticut State Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, criminal record, genetic information or any other federal or state protected class in its employment, programs, and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination, disability, and Title IX policies/procedures, please contact:

John-Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
(860) 612-7056 | jchaissoncardenas@commnet.edu

Tanaya M. Walters, Ed.D, Associate Dean of Student Development/ Deputy Title IX/ Equity
Office E233 | 860-932-4184 | tanaya.walters@ctstate.edu

Frequently Asked Questions

What degree will I be awarded?

A graduate of the practical nursing program is awarded a certificate and meets the educational requirements for testing for licensure as a practical nurse in CT.

Am I a Practical Nurse when I graduate from the program?

Graduation from the program does not guarantee licensure to practice nursing. The program prepares students to sit for the NCLEX-PN and provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the field of nursing. Students need to pass the NCLEX-PN and be approved by a state board of nursing to receive a license to practice nursing.

Does a student have a right to choose their clinical setting based on their town of residence or employment site?

The clinical sites are assigned by the faculty/course leader for a particular nursing semester and are not based on residence or employment considerations. Clinical sites could be within an hour radius of the college and may require a mandatory parking fee. Clinical assignments are not guaranteed and are subject to change at any time during the program.

Why do I have to submit all my college transcripts when some of the courses don't even count toward my GPA?

Although the student may not believe that anything will transfer into the program, the CT-State Community College Practical Nursing Program requires that a student submit their entire academic history to ensure a complete picture of their academic background.

I was previously convicted of a crime; how will this impact on my studies?

Please see “Miscellaneous Information for Accepted Students: Criminal Background Checks, Toxicology Screening & Healthcare, Professional/Practice/Licensure or Registry Restrictions” and “Felony Conviction”.

What happens if I can't attend the semester that I am admitted?

In extenuating circumstances, a one-time deferral may be granted for up to one year with approval from the program administrator.

