VOCATIONAL NURSING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Offered at HNL

Program Mission Statement: The Mission of The College of Health Care Professions (CHCP) Vocational Nursing (VN) Program is to provide students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for academic, professional, personal growth in order to achieve the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs). We will also strive to foster creativity and establish critical thinking skills and competencies in nursing practice; to ensure student success by mentoring their progression through the program and assisting them through transition into the working world, so as to enrich both their families and their communities.

Program Objective: The VN Program provides students with theory, laboratory and clinical experiences to prepare the student with the knowledge and skills to successfully pass the National Council of State Boards of Nursing-Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN®) Examination. Graduates will be prepared to provide competent nursing care for patients of any age in a variety of work settings under the direction of the registered nurse or physician, as well as able to find entry-level employment as vocational nurses in long-term care facilities, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, schools, medical offices, and research clinics, after successfully passing NCLEX-PN® Examination and obtaining state licensure.

Program Requirements: See Admissions Section below for specific Nursing Requirements.

Program Length: The VN Program is comprised of three (3) sixteen (16) week semesters, with a total of 55.0 semester credits. One (1) semester credit hour is equal to fifteen (15) hours of lecture, thirty (30) hours of laboratory, and or forty- five (45) hours of clinical activity experience.

Delivery Method: Residential. Classes are scheduled Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. Clinical courses are scheduled based on facility availability, and may require weekends. Clinical Courses may start as early as 5:30am and end as late as 11:30pm.

Semester I		LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	CLINICAL HOURS	TOTAL HOURS	SEMESTER CREDITS
VNSG 1011	Basic Nursing Skills	48	32	80	160	6.0
VNSG 1031	Vocational Nursing Concepts	16	0	0	16	1.0
VNSG 1041	Medication Administration for LVN Practice	16	32	0	48	2.0
HPRS 1106	Essentials of Medical Terminology	16	0	0	16	1.0
HPRS 2300	Pharmacology for Health Professions	48	0	0	48	3.0
BIOL 2400	Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health	48	0	0	48	3.0
	Semester I total	**192**	**64**	**80**	**336**	**16.0**
Semester II						
VNSG 2101	Mental Health Nursing	32	0	32	64	2.5
VNSG 2111	Advanced Nursing Skills	0	64	0	64	2.0
VNSG 2121	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	48	32	168	248	7.5
VNSG 2131	Nutrition	16	0	0	16	1.0
VNSG 2141	Growth & Development	32	0	0	32	2.0
VNSG 2151	Nursing Care of the Older Adult	32	0	0	32	2.0
	Semester II Total	**160**	**96**	**200**	**456**	**17.0**
Semester III						
VNSG 3111	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	48	0	168	216	6.5
VNSG 3112	Nursing Care of Women and Newborns	32	16	48	96	3.5
VNSG 3113	Nursing Care of Children	32	16	48	96	3.5
VNSG 3114	Issues and Leadership for the LPN/LVN	32	0	0	32	2.0
VNSG 3141	VN Senior Capstone	32	0	128	160	4.5
VNSG 3151	NCLEX Preparation for LVN Practice	30	0	0	30	2.0
	Semester III Total	**206**	**32**	**392**	**630**	**22.0**
	Total Program Hours/Credits	**558**	**192**	**672**	**1422**	**55.0**

Total Program Hours = 1,422/ 55.0 Semester Credits

Note: Upon successful completion of all course work, NCLEX-PN review, clinical, and fulfillment of all financial obligations to the school, the student is awarded a certificate of completion.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Course descriptions include the course number, title, and synopsis, a listing of lecture, laboratory, clinical hours, total clock hours and academic credits. For example, the listing "15/30/0/45/1.0" indicates that the course consists of 15 lecture hours, 30 laboratory hours, 0 clinical hours, 45 total hours and 1.0 semester credit.

Note: Students must successfully complete each semester of courses in sequence before advancing to the next semester.

SEMESTER I		
VNSG 1011	**BASIC NURSING SKILLS**	**48/32/80/160/6.0**
This course provides an introduction to nursing and roles of the nurse in micro- and macro-systems; as well as profession related and patient care concepts. Emphasis is placed on the knowledge and skills needed to provide safe, quality care. The theoretical foundation for basic assessment and nursing skills is presented, and the student is given an opportunity to demonstrate these skills in a laboratory setting and clinical setting. An introduction to the nursing process provides the student with a beginning framework for decision making. **No Prerequisite**		
VNSG 1031	**VOCATIONAL NURSING CONCEPTS**	**16/0/0/16/1.0**
This course is an introduction to the nursing profession and its responsibilities and the legal and ethical issues in practice. Concepts related to the physical, emotional, and psychosocial self-care of the learner/professional**. No Prerequisite**		
VNSG 1041	**MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FOR LVN PRACTICE**	**16/32/0/48/2.0**
This course provides an introduction Reading, interpreting, and solving calculation problems encountered in the preparation of medications. Includes conversion of measurements within the apothecary, avoirdupois, and metric system. Student will have demonstrated competency in medication calculation through computer modules and class setting. **No Prerequisite**		
HPRS 1106	**ESSENTIALS OF MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY**	**16/0/0/16/1.0**
This course is a study and practical application of a medical vocabulary system. Includes structure, recognition, analysis, definition, spelling, pronunciation, and combination of medical terms from prefixes, suffixes, roots, and combining forms. This course prepares the student to become familiar with medical terms throughout the remaining courses in the program. **No Prerequisite**		
HPRS 2300	**PHARMACOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS**	**48/0/0/48/3.0**
This course provides an introduction to the principles of pharmacology including: pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, common adverse/side effects, and contraindications. Emphasis is placed on drug classifications and nursing care related to the safe administration of medications to patients across the life span. **No Prerequisite**		
BIOL2400	**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY FOR ALLIED HEALTH**	**48/0/0/48/3.0**
This course is an introduction to the human body and includes chemistry and the human body, the structure and function of membranes, cells, tissues, organs and organ systems. Additionally, mechanisms of disease, human development, inheritance, weights and measures, and normal physiological values are studied. **No Prerequisite**		
SEMESTER II		
VNSG 2101	**MENTAL HEALTH NURSING**	**32/0/32/64/2.5**
This course introduces the student to the mental health needs of individuals and families across the life span within a cultural context. The focus is on communication skills, mental health disorders and various treatment modalities. The changing professional, legal, and ethical issues of practical nursing in the mental health setting are also explored. The students will be given the opportunity to develop increased personal insights about their own view of self and the world. **Prerequisite Semester I**		
VNSG 2111	**ADVANCED NURSING SKILLS**	**0/64/0/64/2.0**
This course builds on the basic concepts incorporating complex, multi-system disease processes requiring more developed critical thinking. Students continue to build their knowledge, skills and competencies to appropriately and effectively assess and manage clients/patients in a hospital/clinic environment. The students will provide safe, evidence-based professional, holistic nursing care related to the management of clients with advanced medical and surgical needs. **Prerequisite Semester I**		
VNSG 2121	**MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING I**	**48/32/168/248/7.5**
This course is a study of human diseases and disorders, including symptoms of illness and methods of diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. The student is taught the care of adult persons with common medical-surgical disorders. The content is presented in sections according to bodily systems and taught through lecture, audiovisual aids, demonstration, and supervised clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on meeting needs of individual patients, as determined by the nursing process. **Prerequisites: Semester I**		

VNSG 2131	**NUTRITION**	**16/0/0/16/1.0**
This course is an introduction to nutrients and the role of diet therapy in growth and development and in the maintenance of health. **Prerequisites: All Semester I Courses**		
VNSG 2141	**GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**	**32/0/0/32/2.0**
This course will study the stages of growth and development in a continuum across the entire lifespan and integrates concepts related to changes that normally occur in each stage of the life cycle**. Prerequisite: Semester I**		
VNSG 2151	**NURSING CARE OF THE OLDER ADULT**	**32/0/0/32/2.0**
This course begins with an overview of the aging population and age-related disorders and is integrated into fundamentals of nursing and social sciences. The adjustment of the older adult to degenerative changes, nursing home placement, and alternatives to placement in long-term care facilities are discussed. Concepts relevant to pathophysiology, nutrition, pharmacology, psychosocial development, and ethical/legal responsibilities are emphasized. The student practical nurse is taught to use the nursing process to respond to the biological, psychological, and sociological needs of the healthy older adult. **Prerequisites: Semester I**		
SEMESTER III		
VNSG 3111	**MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING II**	**48/0/168/216/6.5**
This course builds on the concepts from **VNSG 2121** and previous courses with a focus on health management, maintenance and prevention of illness; care for the individual as a whole; and deviations from the normal state of health. Administering patient care includes use of the nursing process while performing focused assessments, using sound judgment, and providing patient education as it relates to the LVN scope of practice. The systems included are immunology, sensory, neurology, digestive, endocrine, urinary, and reproductive, as well as oncology nursing. The concepts of patient care, treatments, pharmacology, and diet therapy are included within each system. **Prerequisites: Semester I and II**		
VNSG 3112	**NURSING CARE OF WOMEN AND NEWBORNS**	**32/16/48/96/3.5**
This course will give an overview of the health promotion and risk assessment of individuals and families during pregnancy and birth. Therapeutic communication and assessment skills for providing holistic care to culturally diverse childbearing families during the prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods. Caring for mother and baby in utero and after birth. **Prerequisites: Semester I and II**		
VNSG 3113	**NURSING CARE OF CHILDREN**	**32/16/48/96/3.5**
This course is a study of the basic aspects of growth and development through the life span from infant to adolescent. Nursing care of children is also a study of childhood disease and child care from infancy through adolescence. This study will focus on the care of the well and the ill child and will utilize the nursing process. **Prerequisites: Semester I and II**		
VNSG 3114	**ISSUES AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE LPN/LVN**	**32/0/0/32/2.0**
This course facilitates the transition of the student to the role of an LPN/LVN. Emphasis is placed on issues related to nursing and health care as well as skills necessary to provide care to multiple patients and assign tasks to other LPNs/LVNs and unlicensed personnel. Concepts related to leadership and management are presented as well as career development options that enhance career mobility. Standards of practice and the importance of practicing according to state regulations and statutes are examined. **Prerequisites: Semester I and II**		
VNSG 3141	**VN SENIOR CAPSTONE**	**32/0/128/160/4.5**
This course explores the roles, responsibilities, leadership and management, cultural, ethical, and legal issues related to the Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse (LP/VN). The course provides an opportunity for students in the final semester of the program to transition from the student to the graduate LPN role. Each student will have an opportunity to choose what area of practice he or she would like to practice in for the final capstone. Students will demonstrate critical thinking in the development and implementation of comprehensive plans of care. Students will integrate principles of advocacy, collaboration, coordination and evidence-based care to meet the complex needs of clients during clinical experiences. Student will be required to complete an estimated four week NCLEX review and achieve a specific percentage in order to fulfill the requirements of the course. **Prerequisites: Semester I and II**		
VNSG 3151	**NCLEX PREPARATION FOR THE LVN PRACTICE**	**30/0/0/30/2.0**
This is a required NCLEX-PN® preparation course designed to build confidence, review relevant content, and provide strategies to prepare candidates for the NCLEX-PN® exam. **Prerequisites: Semester I and II**		

Total Program Hours = 1,422/ 55.0 Semester Credits

Admission criteria and the selection process for admission of students.
The competitive selection process is designed to give all qualified applicants an opportunity to be a member of the class while ranking the individuals that have the best potential for success. Each applicant is interviewed by an admissions representative, provided detailed information about the program and screened regarding their qualifications for the VN Program.

Students applying to the Vocational Nursing Program must complete the following admissions steps:

- **Applicants are required to provide supporting documents or evidence of high school graduation or General Education Diploma (GED)**
- **Provide evidence of immunizations/vaccinations**
- **Current certificate of good health (physical examination)**
- **American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR certification**
- **Possession of the Texas Board of Nursing Blue Card, Operations Outcome Letter, Enforcement Outcome Letter, or Eligibility Order**
- **Negative drug screen**
- **Assessment Technologies Inc. (ATI) Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS©) Entrance Examination (Score a minimum composite score of 61.7% overall or greater)**
- **Essay**
- **Interview with the Nursing Admissions Committee**

A. Show evidence of standard high school graduation or general education development certificate.
B. Complete the required admissions documents and application and submit the necessary fee(s) stated on the tuition and fee schedule.
C. Complete the ATI TEAS© Entrance Exam. This exam is developed by ATI and is administered online by certified testing proctors and it measures and assesses a person's ability to be academically prepared to enter and succeed in nursing school. **The applicant will be allowed two attempts in a 12-month period. Applicants who have previously taken the TEAS© Exam may provide their scores for consideration for admission as long as they are <u>not greater than one-year-old and identical testing was completed</u>.**
D. Complete a panel interview with the nursing program acceptance committee. The applicant may bring letters of recommendation for the program from current or former nursing supervisors. Contact information should be listed if the panel desires to communicate with the supervisor.
E. Consent to a criminal background check. Applicants with a felony conviction will be disqualified from admission. Applicants with misdemeanors or deferred adjudication will be instructed to submit the declaratory order of license eligibility petition to the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) prior to acceptance. The student will be placed on the waiting list for the class until the response from the TBON is determined. A copy of the TBON's letter indicating the final decision will be placed in the academic record as evidence of approval to take the licensure exam. The applicant will then be admitted to the next available class if they have met all other admission criteria.
F. Provide a urine drug screen result that is negative. The drug screen will be completed by first day of class. **Applicants are allowed to test only once. If the result is positive, the applicant is removed from the program and deferred from reapplying for one year at which time they may re-apply and repeat the entire admission process.**
G. The nursing acceptance committee will meet approximately 6 weeks prior to the class start date to review and make selections for the class from the applicant files of all qualified individuals that have completed steps A-J of the process. The committee will be comprised of the Director of Nursing, Nursing Faculty, Director of Education or their designee.
H. Submit, <u>within 30-days</u> of the class start, proof of a physical exam not greater than 90-days old. Exam must be signed by a Medical Doctor, Physician Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner.
I. Submit, within 30-days of the class start, proof of vaccination by titer for: measles; mumps; rubella; hepatitis B; varicella; proof of vaccination by paper for tetanus, influenza (seasonal) and tuberculosis skin test (or chest x-ray & questionnaire if history of positive test), & hepatitis A (depending on facility).
J. Submit, <u>within 30-days</u> of the class start, proof of American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR certification.
K. Complete the required forms and information for the financial aid officer (if the applicant is seeking assistance).

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY
During the Admissions and Selection Process students are notified of the regulations (Sections 213.27 - 213.30 of the Texas Administration Code) for nurses who have criminal histories. The following histories will disqualify an individual from entrance into the Vocational Nursing Program:
→ Felony convictions
→ Misdemeanor convictions or felony deferred adjudications involving crimes against persons (physical or sexual abuse, etc.)
→ Misdemeanor convictions related to moral turpitude (prostitution, public lewdness/exposure, etc.)
→ Felony deferred adjudications for the sale, possession, distribution, or transfer of narcotics or controlled substances
→ Registered sex offenders
Criminal background checks on all students are done prior to enrollment or prior to clinical rotation. Students, who have criminal histories, must have already completed the Declaratory Order of Eligibility (DOE) for licensure through the Texas Board of Nursing and provide a copy of the Texas Board of Nursing eligibility letter prior to acceptance into the program. The process takes a minimum of three to six months to complete. Fees are associated with the DOE process.

Students will not be allowed to start clinical or progress in the program of they do not have a blue card, operations outcome letter, enforcement outcome letter, or eligibility order prior to clinical rotations beginning.

Students will also not be allowed to start clinical or progress in the program of they do not have all required immunizations.

CLINICAL ROTATION INFORMATION
Clinical hours and scheduled days will vary. Clinical hours are scheduled between 5:00 am – 11:30 pm. Clinical days may be scheduled Monday through Sunday and shifts will be based on availability by the clinical agency.
All applicants will be ranked based on TEAS Entrance Examination scores, interview score and acceptance into the VN Program will be determined from the ranking and the submission of all required documents

During the first three days of a new nursing class start, students may be added to the class if previously accepted students either do not show for classes or decide to drop the program.
No new students from the waiting list will be added to the class after the third day of school.