

## Program Overview: Technical Certificate, Practical Nurse



### About This Major . . .

This program is designed for students interested in becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse as an entry into the nursing career ladder program. Completion of the Practical Nurse Certificate enables students to progress on to the second year of the Associate of Applied Science/Registered Nurse, Nursing program or apply for advanced placement in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The Practical Nurse program prepares the student to be a direct care giver in hospitals, long-term facilities, and ambulatory care-clinic settings.

The potential student must demonstrate college-level proficiency in reading and writing in order to be admitted to this program. This program has selective admission requirements and these may change from year to year, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the current admission requirements.

**All CMU certificate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.**

In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of the PN program will be able to:

1. function as a competent practical nurse within a legal and ethical framework to provide holistic care to patients from diverse backgrounds. (Applied Learning)
2. promote a therapeutic environment supporting communication across the lifespan for vulnerable and diverse populations. (Communication Fluency)
3. demonstrate clinical decision-making and critical thinking skills to provide effective nursing care for individuals throughout the development stages across the lifespan. (Specialized Knowledge, Applied Learning)
4. organize and incorporate assessment data to plan/revise patient care based on established nursing diagnoses, assessments, and evaluate data in a collaborative manner. (Critical Thinking)
5. utilize knowledge of the nursing process, patient needs, and the role of the nurse when providing safe, effective, and individualize patient care, which respects values, culture, and expressed needs. (Specialized Knowledge)
6. implement the nursing process, utilizing critical thinking by collecting patient data, identifying patient needs, reporting findings, and providing input into the plan of care. (Applied Learning)

### Program Highlights:

#### Licensed Practical Nursing Program Graduates

Program graduates are employed nationally in a multitude of fields. Students have taken positions in:

- Geriatric Nursing
- Ambulatory Care Facilities
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Obstetrics
- Medical Surgical Units
- Home Health Facilities

#### Get Involved!

All pre-nursing and nursing students are welcome to join the CMU Student Nurse Association through which students collaborate to enhance their nursing education experience. Service learning opportunities and "Lunch and Learn" sessions offer creative and professional activities to engage in peer professional groups.



## Program Requirements

Candidates for the Practical Nurse technical certificate must complete 48 semester credit hours of lower-division courses with a minimum 2.0 GPA in all CMU coursework and in all courses required for the certificate. Students must complete two semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology with Laboratory (BIOL 209/209L), or equivalent, prior to enrolling in Nursing courses. In addition, Essential Learning courses (9 semester hours) are also required. At least 50 percent of the courses for this certificate must be taken at CMU. Refer to the program sheet for this certificate for details. In general, CMU's programs of study are based on two curriculum types:

### 1. Essential Learning

CMU's Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

### 2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

#### Foundation Courses

These courses prepare you for the scientific process to evaluate evidence in the healthcare field:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II with Labs
- English Composition I & II
- Human Growth and Development

#### Nursing Core Courses

These courses prepare you to be a generalist nurse through classes and clinical opportunities in the following areas:

- Pharmacology Calculations and Pharmacology
- Nursing IV Certification
- Fundamental Medical-Surgical Concepts I and II and Labs
- Foundations of Nursing and Lab
- Introduction to Mental Health Nursing and Lab
- Nursing Care of Childbearing Family and Lab
- Nursing Care of Children and Lab
- Socialization into Practical Nursing

#### Electives

Nursing is a prescribed discipline. Your electives in this major will be defined by clinical opportunities in a variety of settings.

---

#### General Admission Requirements for the Certificate Program:

- Complete the CMU PN application and submit per deadline requirements by March 1.
- Request transcripts be sent to the Department of Health Sciences.
- Schedule and take the Kaplan Nursing School Entrance Exam through the CMU Testing Center.
- Complete prerequisites and foundation courses (may be currently enrolled and in good standing in the semester of application).
- Be current CMU student or in the process of admission to CMU.
- Complete a successful background investigation, at the applicant's expense, after conditional admission.

Additional information:

- Applicants' average cumulative GPA for the past five years was 3.2 - 3.8.

---

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/healthsciences/ladder.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Health Sciences, 170 Maverick Center, 970.248.1398.