

Practical Nursing

The licensed practical nurse (LPN) works under the direction of registered nurses and doctors. The LPN is a valuable part of the healthcare team who provides input regarding patient care. The LPN is responsible for providing direct care to patients, monitoring patients' blood pressure, changing bandages and inserting catheters, reporting the health status of patients to nurses and doctors, and managing medical records.

After students graduate a practical nursing program, they must sit for a licensing exam to work as a licensed practical nurse.

The LPN career is completely patient-focused, so it is important that they possess compassion and empathy, be detail oriented, and have interpersonal skills, patience, physical stamina, and effective communication skills.



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Practical Nursing Course Outline

Sequence I

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
MATH 1001	Fundamentals of Math	16			1.0
MEDT 1000	Medical Terminology	16			1.0
NUTR 1000	Nutrition	16			1.0
BIOL 1001	Anatomy and Physiology I	32	16		2.5
COMM 1115	Communication and Composition	48			3.0
NURS 1001	Strategies for PN Success	16			1.0
	Sequence I Total	**144**	**16**		**9.5**

Sequence II

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
BIOL 1002	Anatomy and Physiology II	32	16		2.5
NURS 1101	Medication Administration Math I for Nurses	16			1.0
NURS 1110	Introduction to Nursing	32	40		3.0
PHAR 1110	Introduction to Pharmacology	32			2.0
PSYC 1200	Human Development Across the Life Span	32			2.0
	Sequence II Total	**144**	**56**		**10.5**

Sequence III

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
BIOL 1003	Pathophysiology	40	16		3.0
NURS 1102	Medication Administration Math II for Nurses	16			1.0
NURS 1200	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	48	16		3.5
NURS 1201	Clinical Foundations of Nursing I			95	2.0
	Sequence III Total	**104**	**32**	**95**	**9.5**

Sequence IV

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
NURS 1210	Pharmacology - Intravenous Therapy	24	16		2.0
NURS 1300	Medical Surgical Nursing II	48	16		3.5
NURS 1301	Clinical Foundations of Nursing II			95	2.0
	Sequence IV Total	**72**	**32**	**95**	**7.5**

Sequence V

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
NURS 1400	Maternal Child Nursing Theory	48	16		3.5
NURS 1401	Clinical Foundations of Nursing III			95	2.0
	Sequence V Total	**48**	**16**	**95**	**5.5**

Sequence VI

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Clinical	Credits
NURS 1510	Community and Mental Health	24	16		2.0
NURS 1500	Role Transition	32			2.0
NURS 1501	Clinical Foundations of Nursing IV			120	2.5
	Sequence VI Total	**56**	**16**	**120**	**6.5**
	Program Totals	**568**	**168**	**405**	**49.0**

What You Will Learn

As a student in Pima Medical Institute's Practical Nursing program, you will study a wide variety of healthcare topics, including how the cardiovascular, lymphatic, immune and respiratory systems function. Students learn how to identify normal from abnormal and how to document and report that information. They also learn how to care for patients with a variety of health conditions, from acute to chronic. Students learn about life choices versus heredity and how each impacts the disease process.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses is projected to grow 3 percent from 2025 to 2035, as fast as the average for all occupations. As the baby-boom population ages, the overall need for healthcare services is expected to increase. LPNs and LVNs will be needed in residential care facilities and in home health environments to care for older patients.†

Employment

Most new job opportunities will be found in long-term care facilities, rehabilitation facilities, doctors' offices and in-home caregiving.

Licensing

To be employed as a licensed practical nurse (LPN), individuals must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) in his or her state of residence. All 50 states require the graduate to pass the NCLEX-PN to work as an LPN.

†Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, on the Internet at https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/licensed-practical-and-licensed-vocational-nurses.htm (visited October 20, 2026).

PIMA MEDICAL INSTITUTE®

- **Hands-on training**
- **Financial aid if qualified**
- **Career planning services**

PMI offers FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to those who qualify. CAREER PLANNING SERVICES and INTERNSHIPS are also provided for eligible students. Check availability on DAY and EVENING classes. Not all programs are offered at all campuses. For consumer info visit pmi.edu/consumerinfo.