

 **Prairie State College**



**Nursing Program  
Information  
Booklet  
2013**

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## Introduction

Prairie State College offers three different Nursing programs described below. Questions about admissions may be addressed to Enrollment Services at (708) 709-3517.

### **ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING (ADN)**

This program leads to the Associate in Applied Science Degree and is based on a two-year model. Students who are accepted into the program will, assuming satisfactory academic performance, begin nursing studies during the fall semester and graduate at the end of the second subsequent spring semester. Students interested in this program should pay particular attention to the prerequisite courses that are required for admission and note the deadlines listed for steps in the admissions process.

Upon completion of the program, students are granted the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing degree. This credential allows one to apply to take the NCLEX-RN licensure examination to become a registered nurse.

### **BRIDGING OPTION FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES**

To qualify for advanced placement in the nursing program the applicant is required to take the Nursing 101 proficiency exam. This test includes a math and theory component. If the student is successful, he/she will be admitted to Nursing 102 with a spring start. If the student is unsuccessful, he/she may make application to begin the generic program with a fall start. There is no preferential placement of LPN candidates for the generic program. In the event there are insufficient seats available for all qualified candidates, the seat will be awarded based on a random draw of qualified applicants.

Upon successful completion of the core curriculum, an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing will be awarded. This credential allows the graduate to apply to take the NCLEX-RN licensure examination to become a registered nurse.

### **BASIC NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM**

Prairie State College also offers training for those who wish to work as a nurse assistant in hospitals and/or long-term care facilities. Successful completion of this program qualifies a student for the Illinois Basic Nursing Assistant Certificate and to sit for the state approved Competency Examination.

The Advanced Bedside Care Provider Certificate provides practicing nursing assistants with additional instruction in oral communication and increases their understanding in human behavior.

## Application and Admission Procedures

### APPLICATION

Application to the Prairie State College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program consists of the PSC Admission Application, a completed "Nursing Program Intent Form," high school transcripts, any college transcripts, and the COMPASS test, administered through the College's Counseling and Academic Advising Center (if necessary).

**Important—Please note:** The Nursing Program Intent Form will not be accepted until the COMPASS test has been taken and all required developmental courses have been completed with a "C" or better. Applicants may submit original ACT scores no older than five (5) years.

After receipt of the Prairie State College Application, Nursing Program Intent Form, Assessment Scores and transcripts, an evaluation will be mailed to each applicant indicating the completed prerequisites on file, to date, in Enrollment Services. Should the applicant's record not agree with Enrollment Services, it is the obligation and responsibility of the applicant to notify the office immediately. **It is also the applicant's responsibility to follow up with Enrollment Services regarding receipt of all required documents.** Following the application deadline the student will receive a formal evaluation of his/her status for the application period. If **ALL** prerequisites have been completed, the next step will be an orientation session with the Nursing Department faculty.

### PREREQUISITES

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements by **February 1** in order to be considered for Fall semester program admission:

- A. **Transcripts -All academic transcripts must be submitted to Prairie State College by February 1.\*** When submitting transcripts, a Transcript Evaluation Request Form must also be submitted.
- B. **Skills Prerequisites** -All requirements must be met with grades of "C" or better. The most recent method of fulfilling these requirements will be counted.
  1. **English** - Placement in PSC's ENG 101 **or** successful completion of PSC's ENG 099.
  2. **Mathematics** - Placement in PSC's MATH 095 or higher **or** successful completion of PSC's MATH 090.
  3. **Reading** - Placement in PSC's ENG 101 **or** successful completion of ENG 101.
- C. **Program Prerequisites**
  1. BIOL 221 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I (prerequisites: BIOL 111 - Cellular and Molecular Biology with a grade of "C" or better; or CHEM 105 - Survey of General Chemistry with a grade of "C" or better; or two semesters of high school Chemistry with a grade of "C" or better). **All** sciences must be no older than five years at program admission.

2. Successful completion of the Certified Nursing Assistant Program (PSC NURS 100) **or** any other Illinois Department of Public Health CNA course **and** current status on the Illinois CNA registry. Currency will be determined by a documented work record as a CNA in the last two years. Applicants who have successfully completed the course but have not yet completed the CNA competency exam must have a certificate of CNA completion in Enrollment Services no later than February 1.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES OF THE NURSE**

Nurses must be in good health. Attendance to both the classroom and clinical agencies is vital to the student’s success. Other essential functions the nurse must possess are:

<b>Motor Capability</b>	<b>Sensory Capability</b>	<b>Communication Ability</b>	<b>Problem Solving Ability</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills and Professionalism</b>
Move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Coordinate verbal and manual instruction.	Communicate effectively in English with clients, families and other health care providers both verbally and in writing.	Function effectively under stress.	Follow policies and procedures required by academic and clinical settings.
Squat, stoop/bend, reach above shoulder level, use standing balance, walk stairs.	Auditory ability sufficient to hear verbal communication from clients and members of the health team; includes ability to respond to emergency signals.	Effectively adapt communication for intended audience.	Respond rapidly and appropriately to emergencies.	Adheres to Prairie State College Academic Honesty Policy (per College catalog).
Lift 50 pounds and exert up to 100 pounds force to push/pull.	Discern soft sounds, such as those associated with taking a blood pressure.	Interact; establish rapport with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	Adhere to infection control procedures.	Adheres to Prairie State College Code of Conduct (per College catalog).
Use hands repetitively; use manual dexterity; and demonstrate fine motor skills.	Visual acuity to acquire information from documents, charts.	Assume the role of a health care team member.	Demonstrate problem-solving skills in client care. (Measure, calculate, reason, prioritize and synthesize data).	Abides by the guidelines set forth in the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (i.e., the national privacy act).
Must be able to walk and stand for extended periods of time.	Comfortable working in close physical proximity to clients.	Function effectively and safely under supervision.	Use sound judgement and safety precautions.	
Perform CPR			Address problems or questions to the appropriate persons at the appropriate time.	
Travel to and from academic and clinical sites.			Organize and prioritize job tasks.	

Any applicant that does not believe he/she is able to meet the essential functions is advised to make an appointment with the Director of Nursing to explore what accommodations are available, if any, to meet these requirements.

Students who wish to transfer Anatomy & Physiology credits can only do so if **both** semesters (A & P I & II) have been successfully completed at the same institution.

### **ASSESSMENT NOTE**

Prairie State College students are required to take the COMPASS test prior to enrolling in English and/or math courses. It is used to determine appropriate first course placements for English, math and reading courses. Nursing applicants who have not completed English 101, math and college reading requirements must test for whatever portion is still lacking. Since this is required for admission you are advised to take the assessment instrument as soon as possible. **Note: The required courses must have been completed with a grade of "C" or better.** Example: If you submit a college transcript and you have not completed a math course **or** you received a C- or lower, you **must** complete the math portion of the COMPASS test before February 1.

### **APPLICATION EVALUATION**

After all required documents are received, the Office of Enrollment Services will prepare an evaluation of the completed prerequisites on file. If, at this time, it is determined that the course work still needed could not feasibly be completed during the application year, the applicant will be advised to complete the necessary courses and to reapply by submitting a new Nursing Intent form with a new enrollment date. The applicant's name will then be removed from the present list of applicants, thus allowing both the student and the program to realistically plan for future admission.

**An evaluation will be mailed approximately two to three weeks after submitting the Intent Form. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the Enrollment Services Advisor if they have not received any correspondence prior to the application deadline. The evaluation should be retained for future reference as it will serve as proof of submission.**

### **ORIENTATION**

Applicants who have fulfilled all of the requirements listed under "prerequisites" by the deadline date will be invited to an orientation session. Orientation letters are mailed to qualified applicants within three weeks after the February 1 deadline. Applicants failing to attend the required orientation session will **not** be considered for the next Fall class.

Critical points that will be discussed during the orientation:

1. Comparison of nursing programs, e.g., LPN, ADN, Diploma, and BSN programs.
2. Classification of Prairie State's Nursing Program and subsequent opportunities.
3. Identification of potential student problem areas related to the nursing program.
4. Explanation of information specific to the Nursing program, e.g., uniforms, schedules, math, registration, and payment of fees.
5. Information on scheduling the HESIA2 exam and how the results will affect

the applicant's rank score.

### **RANKING PROCESS**

Since the number of students having an approved status is likely to be greater than the number allowed for the next Fall class, all approved students will be ranked according to grade points in the prerequisite courses and the general education courses within the nursing program. The courses used in the ranking system are listed in this booklet (see page 8). The student must earn at least a "C" grade in these courses.

The method of ranking is as follows:

Take the credit for the course and multiply that number by the grade point assigned (A=4, B=3, C=2) then add up the grade points to get the total point score for the rank score.

Example: BIOL 111 = 4 credits; a grade of A = 4 points. Therefore,  $4 \times 4 = 16$  grade points.

**Note:** If the student has fulfilled any of the applicable courses in more than one way, the most recent course grades of at least a "C" or better will be used to determine the rank. For example, if the student has met the biology prerequisite by completing two semesters of high school chemistry and also has earned a grade in PSC's Biology 111, the grade in Biology 111 will be used to calculate grade points for applicant ranking purposes. If a student has completed two humanities courses, again, the most recent with a grade of "C" or better will be used. This does not apply to developmental courses. The most current grade or COMPASS test score will be used for all developmental courses.

### **PROOF OF RESIDENCY**

**In-district residents will be awarded five (5) additional points. The applicant must live in the Prairie State College district at least 90 days prior to the application deadline date. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate residency status by submitting two (2) proofs of residency. The following documents may be presented to verify residency and must be in the student's name: voter's registration card, property tax statement, income tax return, mortgage or mortgage statement, utility bills (gas and electric), and bank statements. The proofs of residency must list the same address, and they must match the address shown on the student records in the Enrollment Services Office. Documents must be submitted by the application deadline date. If seats are limited and students are otherwise equally qualified, preference will be given to in-district students.**

Candidates will also be required to take the HESIA2 exam which is a readiness test for the nursing curriculum. The student's composite score will be factored into the academic rank he/she has earned. The point range will be determined by analysis of the previous classes 101 academic performance.

The student will be required to complete the HESIA2 exam prior to the end of the spring semester. Dates and appointment times will be made available to the students after the mandatory orientation meeting has been attended. Students must pay \$37 to the Business Office to cover the cost of the exam and will be required to present the receipt when he/she takes the test. The final selection of students will take place after all testing has been completed.

### **SELECTION OF STUDENTS FOR THE FALL CLASS**

The number of seats will be determined each year based on clinical site space and faculty numbers.

The ranking scores and, thus, the completed general education courses will be used as a basis for accepting registration for the next Fall class. If two or more applicants have the same rank, and a lesser number of seats are available for the next class, these seats will be filled from the in-district applicants, based on their date of application to the program. Those students accepted for the Fall class will be notified by certified mail, with return receipt requested. This notice will contain the directions for the student to follow in relation to payment of fees and other preparations necessary for the Fall class.

Applicants who are not accepted for registration for the next Fall class because of lack of space will be notified. They may be placed on a waiting list according to rank. **There can be no assurance that any of the applicants who are on the waiting list will be accepted at a later date.**

In the event that one or more of the students who are notified of being accepted for registration indicate that they do not intend to register, or do not complete the steps necessary for registration, the vacancies that result will be filled from the group that remains, and on the basis of the rank score they earned.

In the event that there are insufficient qualified candidates who have applied by February 1, there will be a special provisions program. Under this program, students can make application and complete all of the prerequisites until the end of the spring semester.

Should space remain in the next class after exhausting the special provisions program, the Nursing Admissions Committee will meet and review any late qualified applicants with the intention of filling the space for the next class.

#### **PRELIMINARIES FOR ACCEPTED STUDENTS ONLY**

1. After receiving the nursing program acceptance letter, a **non-refundable** deposit of \$100 must be paid to Prairie State College by a published date. This deposit must be paid to the Business Office. Students are encouraged to meet this requirement by certified mail or pay in person. The deposit is applicable to fall semester tuition and fees. Those who have been accepted into the program, but fail to make this \$100 deposit, will be dropped from the accepted list.
2. Students accepted into the Nursing Program are required to purchase a uniform specified by the Nursing Department. Dates for measurement for these uniforms and a statement as to the approximate cost of all items will be made during the orientation and included in a letter sent by the Nursing Department.
3. Physical examination forms must be completed by a physician of the applicant's choice, no earlier than May 30, unless the February 1 deadline has been extended. The completed physical form must be returned to the Nursing Department no later than August 1.
4. Information regarding Fall registration for classes will be included in a letter sent by the Nursing Department.

**APPLICANTS APPROVED BUT NOT ACCEPTED FOR REGISTRATION**

Applicants who are approved for a particular class, but are not accepted because of lack of space, must submit a Nursing Intent Form for the next year if there is a desire to be considered for the next Fall class.

**NURSING STUDENTS WHO FAIL OR WITHDRAW**

Nursing students who fail or withdraw from Nursing 101 must have an exit interview with the Coordinator of the Nursing Department. If eligible for readmission, the student will be ranked under the normal ranking procedure and must file an intent form for readmission by the February 1 deadline.

**LEGAL PROFILE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE IN ILLINOIS**

1. Is of good moral character.
2. Is of temperate habits.
3. Is a graduate of an approved school.
4. Has passed an examination conducted by the Department of Professional Regulation - State of Illinois.
5. Has not been convicted of a felony in Illinois, or any other state.

Any potential student that does not meet these minimum physical qualifications must meet with the Coordinator of the Nursing Program as soon as possible to discuss the particular limitation and to determine if an accommodation is feasible. Any student needing to arrange for reasonable accommodations for a documented disability (learning, physical, psychological, or other) should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services.

**Reminder . . . . .**

The following application materials **must** be on file in Enrollment Services by the deadline date:

1. PSC Admissions Application
2. Nursing Program Intent Form (included)
3. High School Transcripts or GED Certificate (official)
4. College Transcripts (if any, official)
5. Transcript Evaluation Request Form (if submitting college transcripts)

The Admissions Application and the Transcript Evaluation Form may be completed online at [prairiestate.edu](http://prairiestate.edu) or in Enrollment Services.

**If you have any questions, call  
(708) 709-3517  
the ADN Admissions Advisor**

**Applicant Ranking Form (for ADN Program Admissions)**

**Skills Prerequisites: Deadline February 1**

Academic Area		Date/Method
English -	Placement in PSC's ENG 101 <u>or</u> successful completion of PSC's ENG 099.	____/____
Mathematics -	Placement in PSC's MATH 095 <u>or</u> higher <u>or</u> successful completion of PSC's MATH 090.	____/____
Reading -	Placement in PSC's ENG 101 <u>or</u> successful completion of ENG 101.	____/____

**Program Prerequisites: Deadline February 1**

Course	Credit	Grade	Grade Points
Biology 111 w/grade of C or better or Chemistry 105 w/grade of C or better or 2 semesters of high school chemistry w/grade of C or better (completed in the last 5 years)	4		
-----			
*Biology 221 Human Anatomy and Physiology I ** (following completion of above prerequisite)	4		
Nursing 100 (CNA) or any other Illinois Dept. of Public Health approved CNA course and name active on Illinois CNA registry.		<u>Date Completed</u>	<u>Verified</u>

**General Education Courses That Count Toward Nursing Degree**  
(Complete as many of these as possible prior to program admission.)

Course	Credit	Grade	Grade Points
English 101 (Composition I)	3		
English 102 (Composition II)	3		
Communication 101 (Principles of Communication)	3		
Psychology 101 (Introduction to Psychology)	3		
Psychology 102 (Human Growth & Dev. & Life Span)	3		
Biology 222** (Human Anatomy & Physiology II)	4		
Biology 211** (Microbiology)	4		
Humanities (select from: Area B: Humanities & Fine Arts found in Transferable General Education Core Curriculum Requirements (in College Catalog))	3		

Total Ranking Score = \_\_\_\_\_

**All Courses Counted in the Ranking System must Reflect Grades of "C" or Better**

\*This course counts toward degree requirements in the nursing program.

\*\*Biology 221, 222 and 211 must have been completed within the past five years.

\*\*\*It is **strongly** recommended that Biology 222 be taken before program admission. If not, it must be taken concurrently with NURS 101. (Note **all** biological sciences must be taken within 5 years of program admission).

**Prairie State College**

**Nursing Program Intent Form**

*\*\*Not to be submitted until completion of the PSC COMPASS assessment test and test scores are available in Enrollment Services and all required developmental course work is completed or all official college transcripts showing completed levels of English, math and reading have been submitted.*

I have carefully reviewed the "Prairie State College Nursing Department Application and Admissions Procedures." I understand all of the admission requirements, as well as responsibilities which I must meet to be considered for admission to the PSC Nursing Program. I understand all sciences must have been completed within the past five years.

Further, I understand that the application deadline for consideration for entry into the next Fall class of Prairie State College's ADN Nursing Program is February 1. Qualified applicants who were not granted admission (due to space limitations during a particular year) must reapply to be considered the following year.

An evaluation of my records will be mailed to me approximately two to three weeks after submitting the Intent Form. It is **my responsibility** to contact the Enrollment Services Advisor if I have not received any correspondence prior to the application deadline. Please retain the evaluation for future reference as it will serve as proof of submission.

I wish to be considered for admission to the Fall, 20\_\_\_\_ Nursing Program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number or Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this Form to the Office of Enrollment Services on or Before  
February 1**

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am **re-applying** for admission to the PSC Nursing Program \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

My maiden name (or the name that appears on my transcripts) is: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Important\*\*\*** *Your signature above verifies your knowledge of the five year science rule.*

## LPN-ADN Progression Track (Bridge)

Prairie State College has developed a special track that allows qualified LPNs to become graduates of an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program and to take the NCLEX-RN examination which leads to registered nurse (RN) status. An applicant must take the 101 proficiency exam for advance placement into Nursing 102.

Below is information regarding: (1) admission requirements, (2) courses to be taken, (3) sequence of courses, and (4) selection process. If you have questions after reading this material, please contact the ADN Admissions Advisor at (708) 709-3517.

### **ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

A complete application for the progression track includes:

- PSC Application Form — Complete and return to the Enrollment Services Office.
- Intent Form — A completed LPN-ADN Intent Form must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Office no later than the first Monday in September.
- H.S. Graduation — An official high school transcript, showing the date of graduation must be filed with the Enrollment Services Office. Holders of G.E.D. certificates should submit appropriate documentation.
- College Transcripts — If you have attended other colleges or universities, official transcripts from these institutions should also be submitted to the Enrollment Services Office along with a completed Transcript Evaluation Request Form.
- LPN Graduation — Proof of graduation from an approved LPN school should be filed with the Enrollment Services Office.
- LPN License — Proof of **current** LPN licensure must also be submitted.
- Tests — The Nursing 101 proficiency test must be successfully completed prior to program admission for advanced placement into Nursing 102.
- Work Experience — Documentation of LPN employment during the past two years is required and should be submitted to the Nursing Department.

### **TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

The LPN-ADN applicant must complete the proficiency test for Nursing 101. A fee of \$25 must be paid to the Business Office before the test is administered. The test may be attempted only once. Upon successful completion of this test and admission to the LPN-ADN program, students will have credit posted to their records for Nursing 101. **To allow for sufficient time to obtain uniforms and health status documentation, all proficiency exams must be taken by the third Monday of November.** The Nursing Proficiency Exam is scheduled through the Nursing Department. Please call (708) 709-3524.

Applicants must also complete the College's COMPASS test. The student may schedule the COMPASS test through the Counseling and Academic Advising Center at (708) 709-3506.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

The number of LPN-ADN Progression Track (Bridge) students accepted will vary from year to year based on the number of continuing ADN students. Therefore, qualified applicants will be selected on a random basis.

### **ACCEPTED STUDENTS**

Students accepted into the LPN-ADN Progression Track (Bridge) will be notified by the end of the Fall semester and allowed to enroll in Nursing 102 for the Spring (begins in January) term. Continuation in the program to the sophomore year will depend upon the completion of this course with a grade of "C" or better.

Prior to the beginning of classes in January, accepted students must:

1. Obtain a Nursing uniform from the designated uniform provider.
2. Submit a complete physical examination with the required laboratory test results (forms are available from the Nursing Department.)
3. Submit proof of current CPR certification, (health care provider), to the Nursing Department.
4. Submit verification of hospitalization insurance.

## LPN-ADN Progression Program Requirements (Bridge)

### Check List

\_\_\_\_ **NURSING PROFICIENCY TEST**

LPN-ADN applicants must pass a proficiency test for Nursing 101 (\$25 fee).

\_\_\_\_ **ASSESSMENT TEST**

Applicants are required to complete the College's assessment instrument and any developmental courses, if needed prior to admission.

\_\_\_\_ **PREREQUISITE COURSES**

The following must be completed with grades of "C" or better prior to program admission.

\_\_\_\_ Chemistry - Two semesters of high school chemistry or PSC Chemistry 105 or Biology 111. Chemistry 105 is recommended for those who wish to go on for the bachelor's degree. (Note - courses used to complete this requirement must be completed within the past five years.)

\_\_\_\_ English 101 (Composition I)

\_\_\_\_ Psychology 101 (Introduction to Psychology)

\_\_\_\_ Biology 221 (Anatomy & Physiology I)\*\*

\_\_\_\_ Biology 222 (Anatomy & Physiology II)

\_\_\_\_ Biology 211 (Microbiology)

\_\_\_\_ Communication 101 (Principles of Communication)

\_\_\_\_ Psychology 102 (Human Growth & Development and Life Span)

\_\_\_\_ Humanities (select from Area B: Humanities & Fine Arts found in Transferable General Education Core Curriculum Requirements (in College Catalog)

\_\_\_\_ English 102 (Composition II)

\_\_\_\_ **REQUIRED NURSING COURSES**

NURS 102, 111, 201, 202, 211

\*\*Students who wish to transfer Anatomy & Physiology credits can only do so if both semesters (A & P I & II) have been successfully completed at the same institution.

**Note:** Biology 221, 222 and 211 must have been taken during the last five years.

Prairie State College

LPN-ADN Progression Track Intent Form (Bridge)

I wish to be considered for the LPN-ADN Progression Track (Bridge) that begins in  
January, 20\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
City and State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

LPN License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State Held: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
Date of Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

—  
LPN School \_\_\_\_\_

—  
Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this Form to the Office of Enrollment Services  
No Later than

**The First Monday in September**

## **Basic Nursing Assistant Training Program**

The Nursing Assistant Training Program has been designed to provide students with the skills necessary to give basic patient care in a nursing home or hospital. The course includes instruction in basic nursing care such as bed baths, moving and lifting, enemas, and other basic nursing tasks. Students will receive practice in a lab setting and in a nursing home. Successful completion of this program qualifies the student for the Illinois Basic Nursing Assistant Certificate and to take the state approved Competency Examination.

**Special Note:** Because there is a high demand for seats in the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, students who fail to successfully complete the program for whatever reason or fail to take the state certification exam after successful completion and obtain registry status, will be wait-listed for seats. All first-time applicants will receive initial opportunity to fill the available seats. Students who are wait-listed will be given an opportunity to fill any vacancies created if students drop before the start of class.

### **PREREQUISITES**

Eighth grade education  
16 years of age  
Basic fluency in English  
Valid Social Security Number  
Achieve a COMPASS reading score of 60 or above

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

All students are required to have a TB (Mantoux) test prior to the first day of clinical experience. The form can be obtained through the Nursing Department.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

Students will be required to obtain a criminal background check through obtaining a fingerprint analysis. A receipt from the approved fingerprint agency must be submitted within ten (10) days of the start of class. Failure to do so will require the student to withdraw from the courses.

### **UNIFORMS**

Students are required to wear a clean, white uniform of their choice in the clinical area. They should also wear white shoes and hose. Students are also required to wear a watch with a second hand.

## **COSTS**

The program consists of one seven credit hour course. Total estimated **in-district** cost for the program is:

\$ 738.00 tuition (7 credit hours X 104.00) + \$10 registration fee  
40.00 laboratory fee (includes liability insurance)  
100.00 estimated book charge (available at PSC bookstore)  
\$ 878.00

Students are also responsible for the purchase of a uniform and appropriate shoes.

The course, NURS 100, is typically offered each semester. Students can register during the normal registration hours in the Office of Enrollment Services. **Note: payment for the course is due the day of registration.**

## **BASIC NURSING ASSISTANT COMPETENCY EXAMINATION**

To work in a long-term care facility in Illinois upon completion of Nursing 100, you would need to pass the Nursing Assistant Competency Examination. Currently this examination has a \$60.00 fee. The test is available at Prairie State College and other sites in the area.

## **ADVANCED BEDSIDE CARE PROVIDER**

COMM 101 Principles of Communication (3)  
NURS 100 Nurse Assistant Training (7)  
PSYCH 101 Introduction to Psychology (3)

This certificate is awarded when the student has successfully completed the listed coursework at Prairie State College and has an active status on the Illinois CNA Registry.

## **Philosophy of the Nursing Department**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Nursing program will graduate an individual who demonstrates academic preparation and clinical competence in nursing, making them eligible for state licensure. As an entry-level practitioner, the graduate will help to fill the health care needs of the community.

The philosophy of Prairie State College is committed to helping individuals develop by providing an environment dedicated to learning. In congruence with this mission, the nursing faculty has designed a program to facilitate the education and development of a competent registered nurse.

### **PERSON**

A person is a holistic being with biological, psychological, sociological, diverse cultural and spiritual needs who develops individually as s/he adapts to stresses in the ever-changing environment. A person continually interacts with the environment, community and society as an individual, and as a member of a family or group. Through continual change, a person strives to attain health and self-actualization.

### **HEALTH**

Health is a dynamic state of physical, mental, and social well-being in which the individual changes from conception to death. It is a relative state whereby a person strives to meet his/her daily expectations. A person fluctuates along a health continuum ranging from high-level wellness to death. Health care includes elements of health maintenance and restoration, disease prevention, and health promotion. Health is attained by collaboration between the individual, the health team and society.

### **NURSING PRACTICE**

Nursing is a health care discipline which accepts the responsibility to enable culturally diverse individuals to fulfill their basic needs and to promote and maintain their optimum level of wellness. It embodies the art of caring, which is the skilled art of being with another to promote optimum health. Nursing believes in the integrity and worth of all clients. It is guided by ethical standards that consider the perspective of the client, health care provider and society.

In addition, nursing is a science. Evidence-based practice is accomplished through utilization of scientific principles and critical thinking skills validated by on-going nursing research. A plan for nursing care is formulated using the nursing process to meet the preventative, supportive, restorative and rehabilitative needs of an individual, family, group and/or community. Continuity of care is provided through the utilization of a wide and varied network of community resources. Nurses function as managers/facilitators of care in a variety of practice settings.

**LEARNING**

Learning is a lifelong process which provides opportunities to acquire knowledge, attitudes and technical and critical thinking skills. These skills facilitate a change in behavior of the learner. Learning occurs when a problem, need or desire causes an increase in learner motivation. With increased motivation, the learner seeks information that will solve the problem. Ultimately, learning occurs through interaction between the learner and his/her environment.

**TEACHING**

Teaching is the art and science of facilitating student learning. The art of teaching includes creativity, inspiration and effective communication. The science of teaching includes establishing objectives, organizing materials, designing learning activities, utilizing available technologies, selecting content and evaluating performance in ways that enable students to learn. A variety of teaching methods are used to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

**NURSING EDUCATION**

Nursing education requires a foundation in the liberal arts, biological sciences and psychosocial sciences. The faculty assists the students in identifying, mobilizing and developing their capabilities. Individual differences among students are recognized, and various learning experiences are provided to foster optimum development of each student's potential. Critical thinking is a major focus in nursing education. The importance of lifelong learning is stressed. Nursing education, which provides numerous experiences in the community, will produce graduates that will be able to meet the needs of a diverse community. Health care, social, environmental, technological and economic trends influence the curriculum content.

**PRACTICE OF ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATE**

The geographic area served by the graduates is composed mainly of a culturally diverse population in an urban setting. Therefore, the nursing curriculum reflects these characteristics when addressing the educational needs of the nursing student. The program will prepare its graduates to function as a beginning practitioner of nursing in a variety of health-care settings. The graduate is encouraged to continue to be a self-directed learner and to assume responsibility for his/her continuing education.

The Associate Degree graduate is a nurse generalist who provides direct care for clients across the life span. The graduate utilizes the nursing process to identify and address nursing diagnoses. S/he incorporates knowledge from the liberal arts, biological sciences, psychosocial sciences, current research and nursing standards when providing care. Evidence-based practice assists the graduate to meet the client's physical and psychosocial needs.

The Associate Degree nurse is prepared to function as a client advocate in a variety of health care settings, where s/he is a member of a multi-disciplinary health care team. The graduate is accountable for his/her own practice and functioning within the legal and

ethical boundaries of the nursing profession. The Associate Degree Nurse is a manager of care, client advocate and teacher. Graduates are encouraged to continue professional self-development through continuing education and/or pursuit of an upper division degree.

### THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

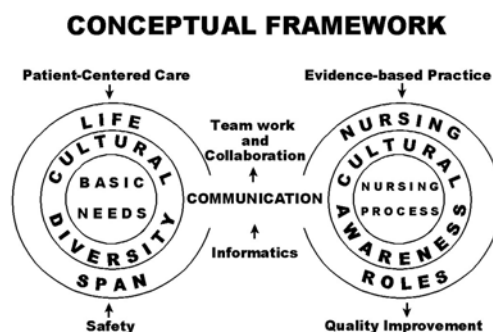
The conceptual framework provides the structure for the organization and implementation of the nursing curriculum. It directs the progression from the first nursing courses through graduation. The conceptual framework assists nursing students to develop a meaningful, organized, scientific method for use in the practice of professional nursing.

At Prairie State College, therapeutic **Communication** links the threads of the conceptual framework. It is stressed that all nurse-client relationships are based on effective verbal & nonverbal interactions. Emphasis on the identification & practice of therapeutic **Communication** techniques continues throughout the curriculum.

The Prairie State College conceptual framework utilizes the use of the **Nursing Process** to identify and address the **Basic Needs** of clients of all ages (**Life Span**) and varied cultural backgrounds (**Cultural Awareness**). A list of **Basic Needs** is used to guide the assessment and analysis of client data. Once a client's priority needs are identified, the NANDA diagnoses are named and a plan of care is developed for subsequent implementation and evaluation.

The use of **Nursing Process** and **Basic Needs** allows the curriculum to focus on the promotion of health and wellness for individuals throughout the **Life span** at varied levels of care in acute, long-term, and community settings. The various **Nursing Roles** are introduced, explored, and practiced at specific times. The **Nursing Roles** of advocate, caregiver, teacher, leader, and research consumer are included.

The client is recognized as any individual, family, group or community who would benefit from nursing care. Cultural Diversity and age specific needs are care concerns that are repeated throughout the curriculum. The ultimate goal for the nursing student and future nurse is the achievement of the highest health potential for all clients.



## **Program Goals**

As a reflection of our mission statement, philosophy and curricular framework, the following program outcomes are identified.

The program will:

1. Serve the community by providing access to an accredited nursing program preparing professional registered nurses.
2. Prepare graduates who will achieve a pass rate on the NCLEX-RN equal to or above standards established by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation.
3. Prepare entry-level practitioners to function as members of multi-disciplinary teams in a variety of health care settings.
4. Prepare graduates who will find employment in nursing within the first year after graduation.
5. Prepare graduates who will demonstrate responsibility for self-development by participating in continuing education.
6. Continue to eliminate academic barriers for graduates choosing to obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
7. Prepare graduates who will be able to practice and function within the legal and ethical boundaries of the profession of nursing.
8. Prepare graduates who will be able to address the holistic health-care needs of a culturally-diverse population.
9. Graduate a minimum of seventy percent of the entering students.
10. Graduate individuals who will express satisfaction with their educational experience in the nursing program.
11. Prepare graduates who will demonstrate proficiency in performing technical nursing skills in the delivery of client care.
12. Consistently receive ratings from employers expressing satisfaction with the graduates.

## **Accrediting Bodies**

The Prairie State College Nursing Program has on-going approval from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to provide an Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Additionally, the Prairie State College Nursing Program has been awarded full accreditation by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission. Inquiries of the program's status can be made to:

NLNAC, Inc.  
61 Broadway-33rd Floor  
New York City, NY 10006  
(1-800-669-1656, extension 153)