

THE READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES NURSING PROGRAM POLICY NO. 312

Subject: Advanced Standing for LPN

Responsibility: Curriculum Committee
Reviewed/Revised: June 2009

Purpose

To provide an articulation option for qualified Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) who wish to continue their nursing education.

Academic Requirements and Considerations

Applicants requesting advance standing must meet the following criteria:

- Graduated from an accredited program such as NLNAC, The Pennsylvania State Board for Vocational Technical Education, or a vocational technical school accredited by the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education
- Hold a current LPN license without restrictions and not pending disciplinary action
- Meet current admission requirements for the nursing program

Admission Procedure

Consideration for the program will be on an individual basis. Placement is contingent upon program and course openings.

The process begins when an applicant notifies the Admissions Department that they are a LPN seeking Advance Placement. The Admissions Department is responsible to verify that the applicant meets the requirements for the Advanced Placement Program.

In addition to meeting all formal admission requirements, Licensed Practical Nurses, who have been accepted and confirmed for enrollment into The Nursing Program, will need to submit the following items to the Admissions Office by April 1st.

- Copy of current LPN License
- Letter of reference from current healthcare employer/supervisor
- Letter requesting advanced placement testing
- A check or money order payable to The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences for testing purposes (Admissions will notify applicant of the amount of the current testing fee, and the date of the scheduled placement exam).
- Practical nursing school catalog, course outlines, and course syllabi (if requested by Admissions Department for clarification purposes)

Testing Procedure

Applicants accepted into the program will be required to take a standardized test to determine placement in the program. The Admissions Department will explain the LPN Advanced Placement Program to the applicant and provide written testing information. The test will be administered during the month of June prior to the fall semester of enrollment. The student must

pay all fees associated with test administration.

- Admissions Office will notify applicants regarding the placement test date by April 15th
- Payment of the testing fee is due to the admission office by May 15th
- Testing will be completed in June
- Test scores are valid for one year

Matriculation Process

1. The NLN ACE I PN – RN Foundations of Nursing Examination Test results will be forwarded to the Curriculum Coordinator.
2. The Curriculum Coordinator will use individual test scores to determine the final decision regarding placement.

Applicants who achieve a 70% or greater in the overall test percentage (“decision score”) AND 70% or greater in each of the content and nursing process scores will be offered advanced placement credit for NUR 101 and NUR 102. Applicants who do not reach the 70% benchmarks will be required to enroll in all courses and proceed through the curriculum as it is designed.

Final placement decisions will be determined by the Curriculum Coordinator after review of the test scores. The Curriculum Coordinator communicates all placement decisions to the Admissions Department.

3. The Admissions Department sends written notification of test results and eligibility for Advanced Placement to the students.
 - a. Applicants whose test scores render them eligible for Advanced Placement must notify the Admissions Department in writing of the decision to either: accept advance placement status, or enroll in the nursing courses (NUR 101 and NUR 102). Applicants are encouraged to consult with the Financial Aid Officer to discuss the impact of Advanced Placement on their personal financial aid package. Applicants are encouraged to consult with the financial aid office prior to the applicant’s submission of the written acceptance of Advanced Placement status.
 - b. Applicants who fail to reach the testing benchmarks for Advanced Placement are required to enroll in NUR 101 and NUR 102.
4. The Admissions department notifies the Enrollment Management Team regarding the successful completion of the Advanced Placement Process. The Admissions department inputs Advanced Placement data into GradPro.
5. Orientation Week LPN Meeting
 A meeting of the LPN Advanced Placement students (E/W Level 1b and Day Level 1) is held during orientation week (August) to review the Advanced Placement process, answer questions. NUR 101 and NUR 102 day and evening tract course coordinators are invited to attend. The LPN will at this time receive:
 - the *LPN to RN Transitions* book
 - NUR 101 and NUR 102 schedules
 - NUR 101 and NUR 102 outlines
 - LPN Transition Program Outline

6. LPN Transition Program

A Transition Program is held preceding the LPN's enrollment in NUR 105. The purpose of this program is to provide orientation to the clinical roles and clinical setting, and assist the student to transition from the role of an LPN to the role of a registered nursing student.

7. LPN Advanced Placement Program Fees:

a. Testing Fee:

Testing fee made payable to TRHSHS (Admission Office/Admissions department) prior to an established due date to reserve a place at the initial June testing/LPN Advanced Placement Testing Date Program. This fee covers:

- Cost of the test
- Postage and Handling for exam and results
- Cost of ATI Fundamentals Book and printed handouts
- Administrative costs

b. LPN Advance Placement Matriculation Fee:

For qualifying students (those applicants offered Advanced Placement) made payable to TRHSHS (Admission Office/Admissions department) at the time of matriculation into the Advanced Placement Program. The fee covers:

- Fall and Spring semester Nursing skills lab fee
- LPN to RN Transition book
- Classroom audit fee (for NUR 101 and NUR 102 hours)
- LPN Transition Program and clinical shadowing experiences
- NUR 101 and NUR 102 Textbooks
- Administrative costs

Qualified students will be required to submit the matriculation fee associated with the LPN Advanced Placement Program, which covers handout materials, textbooks, and the nursing skills lab fee during the Advanced Placement period.

8. The Coordinator of Student Services will include the following information in mailings to all LPN Advanced Placement Confirmed Applicants

E/W Level 1A –

- Level 1a schedules

E/W Level 1b –

- E/W NUR 101 schedule
- ATI testing date (Critical Thinking and Self Assessment)
- Information regarding the Orientation Week LPN Meeting date and time

Level 1 Day -

- Day NUR 101 schedule
- ATI testing date (Critical Thinking and Self Assessment)
- Information regarding the Orientation Week LPN Meeting date and time

9. Faculty advising

All Advanced Placement LPNs will be assigned to the same faculty advisor.

LPN Testing Date Program

An introductory LPN Testing Date Program will be held in June of each year for applicants to the Advanced Placement Program. The agenda for this program will include:

- a. The NLN ACE I PN – RN Foundations of Nursing Examination
- b. Admissions Department – review of eligibility criteria and testing process
- c. Curriculum Coordinator –
 - Review of NUR 101 and NUR 102 content
 - Classroom Audit Process
- d. Simulation Laboratory Faculty –
 - Review of Skills Self- Assessment
 - Available Skills Remediation
- e. Financial Aid –
 - Impact of Advanced Placement on financial aid

At this meeting, the applicant will receive the following handouts along with the corresponding information:

- a. Overview of the Advanced Placement Program
 - Testing process
 - Classroom Audit Requirements
 - Information about the LPN Orientation Program (prior to NUR 105)
- b. ATI Fundamentals Book
- c. NUR 101 and NUR 102 Outlines and schedules (if ready)
- d. Skills Self –Assessment
- e. Medication Administration Self-test

**The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences
Nursing Program
LPN Transition Program**

Objectives:

At the completion of this program you will be able to:

1. Differentiate between RN and LPN Scope of Practice.
2. Identify your learning style.
3. Discuss personal fears and barriers related to returning to the role of student nurse.
4. Establish a personal education plan to succeed in transitioning to the role of student nurse and the clinical learning environment.
5. Be familiar with the patient care routines and nursing documentation used in TRHMC, the primary clinical setting.

References:

Program Materials should be reviewed by student prior to attending program

- ATI Fundamentals in Nursing Review Module
- Harrington & Terry's "LPN to RN Transitions: Achieving Success in Your New Role"
- TRHMC Patient Care Procedures & Documentation Tools