

THANK YOU for your interest in the Practical Nursing (PN) Program! This program allows students to complete the PN Program in two semesters once the general education courses are successfully completed.

APPROVED PROGRAM: The PN Program is approved by the MN Board of Nursing.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION: The Northland Community & Technical College Practical Nursing is accredited by National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA), located at 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20037; phone 202-909-2500.

TRANSFER ABILITY: Graduates of the PN Program may choose to continue their education by applying to the Northland Associate Degree (AD) Mobility Program (RN program) or another AD Mobility Program. Students may then continue on after that for their Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing and beyond.

OPTIONS: Students may choose to apply to one of three options: Thief River Falls (TRF) campus, East Grand Forks (EGF) campus, or a Distance/Hybrid option. The PN Program starts students in fall and spring semester pending an adequate number of applicants.

* If a cohort doesn't start on your preferred site, you may be offered a seat at another site. Additionally, campus courses may be taught via video conferencing or hybrid. Program clinicals are completed in the greater Grand Forks area (Grand Forks, Crookston, or Fertile); Thief River Falls, and Roseau.

* Distance/Hybrid program option: mandatory on campus lab/skill validations (EGF Campus) and clinicals within the community. Each semester there are typically 6-7 times on campus for skill validations/lab throughout the semester. First semester has 5 clinical days which are one day/week or 2 weekends during the second half of the semester. Second semester clinicals are one day a week the entire semester or 6 clinical weekends.

FACULTY: Qualified faculty have the knowledge and professional clinical expertise to assist students in succeeding in the PN Program. The web page below provides faculty member information.

PN WEBSITE: Visit the PN Program website for more details. The PN Program Handbook is also available on this site and provides additional information regarding the program.

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Practical Nursing Program Eligibility Requirements

(updated effective October 2025)

To be considered for program eligibility to begin the Practical Nursing program, the prospective student must meet the following requirements.

1. Northland College Admission and Major Declaration

- Complete the [Northland Community & Technical College Admission Process](#).
- Declare Practical Nursing as the major.
- Note that the Practical Nursing Program requires a separate application discussed in [Step 10](#)

2. Academic Standing

- A minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher is required, including all courses taken at Northland. If no Northland GPA is available, the admissions committee will prioritize the most recent academic transcript and may consider additional factors indicating academic success.
- Successful completion of a minimum of 67% of cumulative attempted credits, as per Northland policy 3070.
- Students who are in a warning, suspension or probationary status are not eligible for entry into the Practical Nursing Program.

3. Pre-PNSG Course Requirements: Complete all of the following with a grade of "C" or higher:

- **HLTH 1106 Medical Terminology** (2 credits)
 - Students must complete a 2-credit medical terminology course such as HLTH 1106 Medical Terminology with a "C" or higher grade OR test-out of the course. If you are a program candidate with a health background and believe you are competent in medical terminology, you may request to test out of this prerequisite. For information on the college policy regarding test-out please contact the college registrar (reference policy 3150P Credit for prior learning procedure Part F:Test out).
- **Math 1003 Math Applications for Nurses** (2 credits)
- **BIOL 2252 Anatomy & Physiology I** (4 credits)
- **BIOL 2254 Anatomy & Physiology II** (4 credits)
- **ENGL 1111 Composition I** (3 credits)

Starting August 2027, the Practical Nursing program will not accept credits earned through unaccredited online learning platforms like StraighterLine, Sophia, and Study.com for program completion. Credits issued by these entities will not be assessed for program acceptance or count toward program completion after August 2027. As you start your program, identify if the timeline allows for these course credits. For more information, contact the program's advisor. Students are encouraged to utilize the test out process if they feel they meet requirements of the course.

- **Nursing Assistant:** Evidence of competency within the past 5 years via.

- Successful completion of HLTH 1110 Nursing Assistant (NA) course.

OR

A current Certified Nursing Assistant (NA) certificate/registration card. (Student must submit documentation if not listed on the Northland transcript).

Note that training and experience in related health care professions is NOT equivalent to nursing assistant skills. This includes, but is not limited to, certification or practice as a: Home Health Aide, Health Aid Worker, Social Worker, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Paramedic, Phlebotomy, Medical Assisting, Massage Therapy, Surgical Technician and Occupational and Physical Therapy.

4. Math Requirements

- Qualifications for College Level Math will be used to meet the program Math Entrance requirements. Multiple measures or appropriate assessment scores may be used to assess this requirement.

5. General Education Requirements

- Achieve a “C” or higher grade in all general education courses required for the Practical Nursing diploma.

6. Current CPR certification

- CPR certifications accepted include: CPR for Health Care Providers or Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers (American Heart Association) or CPR for the Professional Rescuer (Red Cross).
- Certification must include CPR/Basic Life Support course that includes both a test and hands-on verification of competency of the following:
1 and 2-Rescuer CPR (adult, child, infant), AED use (adult, child), Bag-mask use (adult, child, infant), Rescue breathing and choking (adult, child, infant).

7. Background Studies

- Complete two background studies with clear results. See the [Criminal Background Checks](#) web page for Northland’s Allied Health and Human Service students.
- Maintain eligibility by adhering to legal requirements, by avoiding arrests or legal infractions.
- Minnesota Department of Human Services Licensing Division Background Study.
 - Minnesota law requires any person who provides services that involve direct contact with patients and residents at a health care facility licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health have a background study conducted by the state. An individual who is disqualified from having direct patient contact as a result of the background study, and whose disqualification is not set aside by the Commissioner of Health, will not be permitted to participate in a clinical placement in a Minnesota licensed health care facility.
- National Background Study
 - Information and instructions are sent to students once accepted into the program. The cost of the initial national background study and annual renewals through the approved vendor is paid for by the student.

8. Complete and maintain all health and immunization requirements for students in Northland health care programs. Refer [Allied Health Programs Immunization Requirements](#) regarding specific requirements each immunization and how requirements may be met.

- Health and immunity requirements include but are not limited to:
 - Diphtheria/tetanus (Td or Tdap) within the last 10 years.
 - TB Testing negative two-step Mantoux or IGRA blood test, refer to specifics regarding if history of positive TB testing.
 - After entering the program students must complete an annual TB risk assessment.
 - MMR, Varicella, and Hepatitis B or evidence of immunity
 - Influenza annual vaccination for seasonal influenza.
 - Annual signature on the clinical consent form and bloodborne pathogens form.
 - Covid-19 vaccination status-as required by student’s clinical site/facility.
 - All pregnant students should consult their obstetrician before receiving HBIG, hepatitis B vaccine or any live virus vaccine.
 - Student immunizations will be tracked through an approved vendor’s data base. Students are required to create an account (at current cost) and keep all immunization data current in the online

data base. Contact Katie Hallin, Allied Health Verification Specialist at katie.hallin@Northlandcollege.edu for questions regarding clinical health requirements.

9. TEAS Examination with a minimum cumulative score of 53

- The ATI TEAS® examination measures entry level skills and abilities of nursing program applicants. This test assesses skills in the academic content area domains of reading, mathematics, science and English language usage. ATI TEAS® is the only accepted version at Northland Community & Technical College. TEAS® score will be good for 2 years from the test date. Further information on the TEAS, including a student study guide, is available at www.atitesting.com. Students may take the TEAS® test one time/semester. The last day of the semester is considered the date in which grades are due on the academic semester; attempts must be a minimum of 30 days apart if repeating in another semester.
- **EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2025: ALL TEAS EXAMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN-PERSON AT AN APPROVED COLLEGE TESTING CENTER**
- Note --The minimum TEAS examination score is reevaluated each semester and is subject to change.

10. Application to Practical Nursing program

- Apply to the practical nursing program. Applications can be found on the [Practical Nursing Diploma webpage](#).
- **Application Deadlines:**
 - **Fall Start: Applications due by March 1; applicants are notified by March 31 regarding their status**
 - Students completing general education courses during the summer semester will only be considered for fall semester start pending space availability.
 - **Spring Start: Applications due by October 1; applicants are notified by October 31.**
- Cohort availability may vary by campus (EGF, TRF, Distance/Hybrid). Students may be offered seats in 2nd choice location if a location is filled or there are not enough qualified applicants to start a cohort in the selected location.

Additionally, a blended site (some classes face-to-face, video conferencing, or some classes distance/hybrid) may be used pending enrollment numbers.

Competitive process: Students who apply to the PN Program are chosen on a competitive basis, based on the points earned in the following rubric. The cut off point for the selection process is determined by the number of applicants and their points achieved. If a tie occurs, priority selection will be given to the applicants according to the date of completion of the application to the PN Program.

Admission to the Practical Nursing Program is based on a point system outlined in the rubric below.

Program Requirement	Sc ale	Possi ble Point s	Point s Earne d	Comments
ATI TEAS **	65 or higher = 5 points 60-64 = 2 points 53-59 = 1 point	5		
Cumulative GPA ** (use most recent educational transcript)	3.6-4.0 = 4 points 3.0-3.5 = 3 points 2.5-2.9 = 2 points GED = 1 point	4		
Grades in PN Required Pre-requisite Coursework • Comp I _____ • A&P I _____ • A&P II _____ • Med Term _____ • Math Apps _____	A = 3 points B = 2 points C = 1 point In Progress = 0.5 points	15		
Math requirements met	Yes or No	Y or N		
Completion of Nursing Assistant Course or on current CNA registry	Yes or No	Y or N		
Previous Degree	Associates = 1 point Bachelors = 2 points	2		
Working in Healthcare <i>Current direct patient care employment verified by letter from employer on facility letterhead</i>	Yes = 1 point No = 0 points	1		Student responsibility to have sent to pnadvisor@northlandcollege.edu
TOTAL POINTS		27		

*competitive entrance score based on rubric is approximately 15 or higher.

PN PROGRAM PROGRESSION/RETENTION: The PNSG courses are taken in the following order over two semesters:

Semester One- PNSG courses Credits: theory/lab, clinical/OJT	Semester Two – PNSG courses Credits: theory/lab, clinical/OJT
PNSG1250 Introduction to Practical Nursing: 1 credit 1/0/0	PNSG1270 Transition to Practice: 1 credit 1/0/0
PNSG1254 Nursing Foundations: 4 credits 3/1/0	PNSG1274 Maternal/Newborn: 1 credit 1/0/0
PNSG1258 Psychosocial: 2 credits 2/0/0	PNSG1279 Invasive Nursing Therapies: 3 credits 1/2 /0
PNSG1262 Nursing Concepts I: 5 credits 3/2/0	PNSG1283 Nursing Concepts II: 5 credits 5/0/0
PNSG1266 Clinical Care I: 1 credit 0/1/0	PNSG1287 Clinical Care II: 4 credits 0/4/0
Total Credits: 13 Credits	Total Credits: 14 Credits

PROGRESSION:

All first-semester **PNSG courses** must be successfully completed to progress to second-semester PNSG courses.

- Students progressing according to the sequence outlined in the current PN Student Handbook will have **priority registration** for courses.

Failing a Course Twice:

- Students are allowed **up to two attempts** to pass any PNSG course (theory, skills, or clinical).
- Students who fail one or two PNSG course need to email their PN advisor and request to repeat the course(s). Students will have a seat held for them in that course(s) a year from the semester the course(s) was failed.
- If a student fails the same PNSG course twice, including withdrawals (grades of D, F, or W), they will no longer be eligible to complete the PN Program.
- If this is the student's **first admission** to the program, they may reapply through the formal application process.

Failing Two or More PNSG Courses:

- Students who fail two or more PNSG courses (grades of D, F, or W) will no longer be eligible to complete the PN Program.
- They may reapply through the formal application process if this is their first admission to the program.

See the [**PN Handbook**](#) for more details on program progression.

RETENTION:

PNSG faculty are committed to supporting students in achieving success. If a student encounters difficulties in a course, the faculty member should be the first point of contact. Faculty may offer the following types of assistance:

- Completing an early alert form to notify the counselor, who can recommend additional support strategies.
- Referring the student to the Academic Success Center (ASC) for tutoring or other academic assistance. The ASC offers many free services to Northland students including tutoring and disability services. Click here for the [ASC](#) web page.
- Connecting the student with a peer tutor for one-on-one support.
- Providing access to supplemental resources such as ATI materials, instructional videos, or other educational tools.
- Recommending the student meet with a counselor to address personal challenges, such as stress or family situations.
- Encouraging participation in a study group to enhance collaborative learning.
- Suggesting completion of a focused review for ATI practice tests to strengthen knowledge in specific areas.
- Establishing a student contract (refer to Appendix D in the [PN Handbook](#)) to outline necessary improvements and create an actionable plan for success.