

**PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAM**

Frequently Asked Questions

**Can you tell me about the Penn State Berks program?**Penn State Berks is authorized by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing to deliver an 18-month, part-time evening and weekend Practical Nurse Program.

**How Do I Qualify?**Allcandidates must first take the TEAS V exam, a standardized pre-nursing exam which determines the core skills of the individual. If students achieve the Penn State Berks benchmark score, then they qualify for a personal interview with the campus nursing coordinators.

**What is required for the application?**Applicants must supply the following: transcripts from high school and college or proof of GED, two signed letters of recommendation, and a single paged, double spaced essay describing their interest in a nursing career. A $75 application fee is also required. Following an acceptance letter, candidates must provide documentation as required by our clinical facilities detailing state/federal clearances, drug testing, physical exam, CPR training, and malpractice insurance.

**Are there prerequisites, can I transfer credits earned elsewhere?**Our program is a *non-credit* clock hour program therefore all hours must be recorded by the Penn State Berks program. There are *no prerequisites* and credits *may not* transfer into the Penn State program.

**What is the class schedule?**On weekdays, classes meet from 4:30-9:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Clinical days, held every other Saturday/Sunday, begin at 6:30 AM and conclude at 4:30 PM. Students should expect to spend an additional 10-15 hours per week of study time in addition to formal classroom/clinical time.

**What is the cost of the program?**The July 2016 tuition is $16,500 and includes textbooks, uniforms, clinical supplies, and an NCLEX preparation program. Tuition is paid in four payments, each payment prior to the start of a new module.

**Is financial aid available?**Students are responsible for securing their own program funding and we suggest that all students complete a FAFSA form for consideration of grants and loans. If the student qualifies for financial aid, they are responsible for signing off on the required paperwork in a timely manner. Finally, students are responsible for all balances due throughout the program.

**Once admitted, what is required of the Practical Nurse student?**Students are required to send in non-refundable seat deposit. Students are to obtain all the program/clinical requirements in a timely manner; failure to do so jeopardizes program status. Students must maintain their clock hours and accept responsibility for timely make up of hours missed. Students must adhere to responsible and professional conduct, both in the classroom and at clinical facilities, comply with the uniform dress code, and maintain a 75% class average as required by the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing. If students fall below 75%, it is their responsibility to seek remediation. Commitment to the program throughout the 18 months is a must!

**Can I remain employed while enrolled in this program?**The 18-month curriculum at Penn State Berks is designed to meet the needs of those students who choose to work while pursuing the Practical Nurse program. It is recommended that students not maintaining at least a 75% average should reduce their work hours until the program is completed.