



2025-2026 Catalog Addendum September 2025

The current Westmoreland County Community College Catalog covers the 2025-2026 academic year. This addendum lists programs of study and college policies that are new or have been updated after August 2025. Students should speak with their advisor or counselor if they have questions regarding these changes.

All information in this addendum is effective September 2025 unless otherwise noted.

Practical Nursing, Diploma

School of Health Professions

Program Description

The Practical Nursing Diploma program is designed to equip students with the foundational skills and clinical experience needed to excel as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The curriculum combines classroom instruction, laboratory simulations, and supervised clinical practice to develop competencies in patient care, medication administration, health assessment, and communication. Students learn to provide compassionate and ethical care to individuals across the lifespan in diverse healthcare environments, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and clinics. Upon successful completion, graduates are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN examination for licensure as a Practical Nurse.

Career Opportunities

A Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) has a variety of career opportunities in the healthcare field, often depending on their interests, additional certifications, and willingness to pursue further education. Here are some common and emerging opportunities in areas such as Hospitals, Long-Term Care Facilities, Home Healthcare, and Clinics.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Provide Safe and Effective Nursing Care
 - a. Deliver holistic, patient-centered care using evidence-based practices to individuals across the lifespan.
 - b. Monitor and assess patient conditions to identify changes and respond appropriately within the LPN scope of practice.
2. Demonstrate Clinical Competence
 - a. Perform essential nursing procedures with precision and adherence to established standards.
 - b. Administer medications safely and accurately under supervision or as allowed by regulations.
3. Communicate Effectively
 - a. Utilize verbal, non-verbal, and written communication skills to collaborate with patients, families, and the healthcare team.
 - b. Document care accurately and in compliance with legal and ethical guidelines.
4. Promote Health and Wellness
 - a. Educate patients and families on health maintenance, disease prevention, and managing chronic conditions.
5. Apply Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills
 - a. Use sound judgment to prioritize tasks and make informed decisions in dynamic healthcare settings.
6. Adhere to Professional and Ethical Standards
 - a. Demonstrate accountability, compassion, and respect in all interactions.
 - b. Maintain compliance with nursing laws, ethical codes, and facility policies.
7. Prepare for Licensure and Employment
 - a. Successfully pass the NCLEX-PN examination to obtain licensure.
 - b. Transition effectively into entry-level LPN roles in diverse healthcare settings.

Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr	Prereq/Coreq(Co)	Options Available
Spring	1	NPN 101	Practical Nursing I	9	HS Level BIO/CHM OR BIO 107, CHM 107	
	2	BIO 171	Anatomy and Physiology I	4	CHM 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or HS Chemistry ("C" or Better) and ENG 095 or Placement	
	3	CPT 150	Microcomputer Concepts	3		
Summer	4	NPN 151	Practical Nursing II	9	NPN 101	
	5	BIO 172	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	BIO 171 with "C" Grade or Better	
	6	PSY 160	General Psychology	3		
Fall	7	NPN 201	Practical Nursing III	12	NPN 151	
	8	ENG 161	Writing I	3	ENG 085; Co: ENG 095 or ENG 099	

NPN - Practical Nursing

NPN 101 - Practical Nursing I

4.5-4.5-9

The five critical elements of the Practical Nursing program: caring, competency, communication, clinical judgment, and commitment serve as the framework for this course. The purpose of this course is to prepare the beginning practical nursing student to meet the basic human needs of adult clients in a clinical setting. The focus is on the concepts fundamental to the nursing curriculum. A person's individuality, health concepts, and nursing as a discipline are explored. The nursing process is introduced, and students will practice the skills of applying the nursing process. The student will utilize technology during the practice, performance, and assessment of basic assessment skills. This course will enable the beginning practical nursing student to practice within a healthcare team and gain awareness of the practical nursing role by developing, implementing, and evaluating a nursing care plan for one adult client. The student will begin administering oral, subcutaneous, and intramuscular medications as part of nursing care.

Prerequisite(s): High School Biology and Chemistry with Labs; or Equivalent with a C or better.
Co-Requisite(s); BIO 171; CPT 150

NPN 151 - Practical Nursing II

4.5-4.5-9

The five critical elements of the Practical Nursing program: caring, competency, communication, clinical judgment, and commitment serve as the framework for this course. The purpose of this course is to prepare the progressing practical nursing student to deliver care to clients in a variety of settings, including maternity clients and their newborn babies, pediatric clients, behavioral health clients, and clients with medical-surgical conditions requiring hospital and/or long-term care. This course focuses on applying the nursing process to adults and children with alterations in physical and emotional needs. Maternal, newborn, and child care are included, with an emphasis on family-centered care. Therapeutic communication skills will be emphasized throughout the course. It also applies the nursing process to clients experiencing common mental health problems with emphasis on assisting clients to cope with psychological problems throughout the life span- i.e., chemical dependency, violence, and other stress and developmental problems related to mental health. Clinical experience is provided in various settings to assist the student in organizing a client assignment and working with the nursing team. The student will continue to follow a plan of care, evaluate client response, and administer medications as an integral part of nursing care with the addition of IVPB medications.

Prerequisite(s): NPN 101

Co-Requisite(s): BIO 172; PSY 160

NPN 201 - Practical Nursing III

3-9-12

The five critical elements of the Practical Nursing program: caring, competency, communication, clinical judgment, and commitment serve as the framework for this course. The purpose of this nursing course is to prepare the practical nursing student to make the transition from the role of a student to that of a graduate. The student will deliver holistic nursing care to adults with health alterations in basic human needs. The focus is the delivery of nursing care to clients with medical-surgical alterations in health who need help in coping with health problems or recovering from the effects of disease or injury. The student will continue to administer medication to the clients, follow a plan of care, evaluate client response, and collaborate with team members. Clinical experience is provided to assist the student in the organization of multiple client assignments and in working with the nursing team. The clinical experience is provided in long-term or acute care facilities which provide the student with the experience needed for employment.

Prerequisite(s): NPN 151

Co-Requisite(s): ENG 161