



REND LAKE COLLEGE

468 NORTH KEN GRAY PARKWAY
INA, ILLINOIS 62846

(618) 437-5321

www.rlc.edu

Dear Prospective Nursing Student,

Thank you for your interest in the nursing program at Rend Lake College. The faculty and staff are here to assist you as you pursue a new career.

Please find enclosed information about the program. If you wish to be considered for admission, you must schedule a pre-entrance testing date with the Rend Lake College Testing Center at 1-800-369-5321, Ext. 1268 or (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1268. The entrance exam (PSB Aptitude Exam) is offered monthly from October through March. Students will be selected for the Fall class in April. There is a \$30.00 fee for the entrance test. It must be paid in advance. Please verify the charge when registering.

Group advisement for pre-nursing students will be held the first Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m. You must attend one session prior to making application for the program. Applications for the nursing program will be given to you the day of the test. It is your responsibility to have the application and a copy of your test score turned in to the Allied Health Department by March 1st. Partial application packets will not be accepted.

The scores for the test remain valid for two years. You may retest to raise your score, but this may only be done one time per semester. The same test is used for the practical nursing (PN) and the registered nursing (ADN) programs. However, if the PN pre-entrance test was taken over two years ago, the PSB test must be retaken for entrance into the ADN program.

If you have any questions regarding the program or the pre-requisite, please do not hesitate to call me at (618) 437-5321, extension 1251 or 1225.

Thank you,

Beth Stevens
Administrative Assistant
Division of Allied Health

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the Rend Lake College Nursing Program.

The Practical Nursing (PN) program provides students with basic knowledge of nursing theory and practice. It prepares graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN). Successful passage of the NCLEX-PN qualifies the graduate to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). The PN program at Rend Lake College is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).

The PN program has specific admission requirements. Please note that admission to the college does not guarantee acceptance into the PN program.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program (RN): Successful completion of this program results in an Associate in Applied Science Degree. The program prepares graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). Successful passage of the NCLEX-RN qualifies the graduate to become a Registered Nurse (RN). The RN program at Rend Lake College is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).

The RN program is a ladder program. You must be a graduate of an approved practical nursing program to enter the RN program. Students who have not yet graduated from a practical nursing program should refer to the PN section of this packet explaining that program.

General Information – PN Program

- I. Prior to consideration for admission to the PN program, the student must:
 - A. Submit an application to Rend Lake College.
 - B. Submit a high school or GED transcript and official transcripts from all colleges attended to the Office of Student Records.
 - C. Make an appointment with counseling at ext. 1268, to take the COMPASS test if you have not taken English 1101.
 - D. Make an appointment for the nursing pre-entrance test with the RLC Testing Center at ext. 1268. The test is given monthly from October until March. The test is called the Psychological Services Bureau Aptitude Exam (PSB). The cost is \$30. Scores on the test are ranked yearly.
 - E. Be at least seventeen years old.

- II. Prior to admission to the program, the student must:
 - A. Successfully complete ENGL 1101 and CNA with the grade of “C” or better.
 - B. Provide proof of sound health as certified by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
 - C. Provide documentation of health screening and immunizations as required by clinical facilities.
 - D. Provide proof of American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR.
 - E. Submit to a live-scan fingerprint background check.
 - F. Provide proof of current health insurance.

- G. Successfully pass a test dealing with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- H. Accept the provisions of the Rend Lake College Allied Health Department Substance Abuse policy.

General Information – RN Program

- I. Prior to consideration for admission to the RN program, the student must:
 - A. Submit an application to Rend Lake College.
 - B. Submit a high school or GED transcript and official transcripts from all colleges or technical schools attended to the Office of Student Records.
 - C. Make an appointment with counseling at ext. 1268, to take the COMPASS test if you have not taken English 1101.
 - D. Make an appointment for the nursing pre-entrance test with the Rend Lake College Testing Center at ext. 1268. The test is given monthly from October until March. The test is called the Psychological Services Bureau exam (PSB). The cost is \$30. Scores on the test are ranked yearly.
 - E. Be at least seventeen years old.

- III. Prior to admission to the program, the student must:
 - A. Successfully complete ENGL 1101 Rhetoric and Composition, ZOO 1105 Anatomy and Physiology I, ZOO 1106 Anatomy and Physiology II, MICR 1101 Basic Microbiology, and PSYC 2101 Introduction to Psychology with the grade of “C” or better.
 - B. Successful completion of a practical nursing program.
 - C. Provide proof of sound health as certified by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
 - D. Provide documentation of health screening and immunizations as required by clinical facilities.
 - E. Provide proof of American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR.
 - F. Submit to a livescan fingerprint background check.
 - G. Provide proof of current health insurance.
 - H. Successfully pass a test dealing with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
 - I. Accept the provisions of the Rend Lake College Allied Health Department Substance Abuse policy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NURSING PROGRAM

How do I get into the nursing program? The steps you need to follow are listed below:

- ✓ Take the COMPASS test for placement into general ed. Courses
- ✓ Complete a Basic Nurse Assistant Course (C.N.A.)
- ✓ Complete the general education requirement of English 1101, Introduction to Psychology, Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2, Introduction to Microbiology
- ✓ Make an appointment with the testing center to sit for the nursing entrance exam (PSB)
- ✓ Submit application packet by March 1st (test score, application transcripts)

How often are students admitted into the Rend Lake College nursing programs?

- ✓ Both programs begin each August with the students being selected in April
- ✓ The on-line A.D.N. program begins each January with students being selected in October

Do you have a waiting list?

- ✓ No

When will I find out if I am admitted?

- ✓ Every effort is made to notify students by the end of April
- ✓ All admissions are provisional until required paperwork including a background is performed. An advisory meeting will be scheduled with all entering students to complete the appropriate forms.

What is the Psychological Services Bureau Exam?

- ✓ The PSB is a test developed to assess reading, math, science and spelling skills. It is, basically, an aptitude exam.
- ✓ The PSB test may only be taken one time per semester. If the test indicates an area of weakness, you might want to consider a class in that area before retaking the test.

How long is the program?

- ✓ The prerequisite courses are completed prior to entering each program. Normal progression through the core curriculum for practical nursing will require a fall and spring semester and a short summer semester. The associate degree in nursing requires two semesters following the practical nursing program.

What if I want to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN)?

- ✓ Associate degree nurses can transition easily into BSN completion programs. These programs are offered by several area universities. The class schedules vary from one day a week on Rend Lake College campus to totally online. Many students prefer to obtain an ADN and then pursue BSN completion. This route allows them to work as a RN while obtaining further education. Both BSN and ADN graduates take the identical NCLEX-RN state board examination. For information regarding BSN completion, please contact the desired university.

Can I complete ADN prerequisites while I am in the practical nursing program?

- ✓ No. The nursing classes represent a full class load. Increasing this load also increases the chance of academic failure in the core nursing classes.

Is financial assistance available?

- ✓ Yes. Please contact the financial aid department for information. Several scholarships will be offered throughout the year. Many healthcare institutions offer opportunities for work/study programs.

How will I know if nursing is a field I want to pursue?

- ✓ Take every opportunity to observe nurses at work. Some institutions may allow you to job shadow a nurse. Taking the Certified Nurse Assistant class is also a good preview.

How much math is there in nursing?

- ✓ Basic math skills are necessary for nursing. This includes fractions, decimals, percentages, and the ability to complete ratio-proportion problems. The college requires that all graduates have a basic understanding of math concepts. Courses are included to assess this in both the practical nursing and ADN programs. If math is a weak area, please take the COMPASS test with counseling. This will determine placement in math classes. Before entering the nursing program, register in a math class if you need a skills update and time allows.

For further questions, please call the Allied Health Department, (618) 437-5321, ext. 1251.

Practical Nursing Program (Certificate in Practical Nursing) Estimated Cost for Entire Program	
<u>Pre-requisite Courses:</u>	
*General education courses (\$93.00/credit hour x 3 credit hours)	\$279.00
C.N.A. (tuition is waived for in-district but there are fees, supplies, testing, etc.)	\$300.00
<u>Fall Semester</u>	
PNUR Courses (\$93.00 x 18 credit hours)	\$1674.00
Lab Fees	\$100.00
Books	\$500.00
Supplies (2 uniforms, lab coat, white duty shoes, white hose/socks, lab coat, 2 RLC patches, stethoscope, watch w/second hand, bandage scissors, name tag – RLC bookstore, nursing skills bag – RLC bookstore, blood pressure cuff	\$400.00
Miscellaneous Fees (Background check, official school pin)	\$100.00
Health Screenings and Immunizations *Travel Expense ****Health Insurance	Varies
<i>Total for Fall Semester (not including general education courses)</i>	<i>\$2774.00</i>
<u>Spring Semester</u>	
PNUR Courses (\$93.00 x 17 credit hours)	\$1581.00
Books	\$500.00
Lab Fees	\$100.00
Travel Expense *Health Insurance	Varies
<i>Total for Spring Semester</i>	<i>\$2181.00</i>
<u>Summer Semester</u>	
PNUR Course (\$93.00 x 8 credit hours)	\$744.00
State Board Exam Fee	\$291.00
Exit Testing Fee & Board Review	\$50.00
Travel Expense *Health Insurance	Varies
<i>Total for Summer Semester</i>	<i>\$1085.00</i>
<u>Post Graduation Fees (required to practice)</u>	
Fingerprint Fee for State Board Exam	\$64.00
Nursing License	\$50.00
<i>Total for Post Graduation Fees</i>	<i>\$114.00</i>
<i>Approximate Total <u>without developmental course(s), health screenings, travel and insurance fees</u></i>	<i>\$6733.00</i>
ALL costs are approximate and subject to change.	
*Developmental courses may be required prior to English 1101.	
*Additional lab fees & technical fees will be applied and vary by course. Estimated cost is tuition only.	
**Proof of health screening: must have physical exam, TB skin test, rubella titer, varicella titer, Hepatitis B series. The health screening is a requirement of all clinical agencies.	
***Travel will include driving to and from RLC and travel to and from clinical sites.	
****Proof of health insurance is a requirement of all clinical agencies. The cost of health insurance is not a Rend Lake College charge, nor does the College offer a student policy. Each student is responsible for obtaining and maintaining health care insurance coverage through the entire program.	

Updated: April 2011

**Associate Degree Nursing Program (Associate in Applied Science Degree)
Estimated Cost for Entire Program**

<u>Pre-requisite Courses:</u>	
*General education courses (\$93.00/credit hour x 18 credit hours)	\$1674.00
<u>Fall Semester</u>	
ADN Courses (\$93.00 x 14 credit hours)	\$1302.00
Lab Fees	\$100.00
Books	\$1500.00
Supplies (2 uniforms, lab coat, white duty shoes, white hose/socks, lab coat, 2 RLC patches, stethoscope, watch w/second hand, bandage scissors, name tag – RLC bookstore, , blood pressure cuff	\$400.00
Miscellaneous Fees (Background check, official school pin)	\$200.00
Health Screenings and Immunizations *Travel Expense ****Health Insurance	Varies
<i>Total for Fall Semester (not including general education courses)</i>	<i>\$3502.00</i>
<u>Spring Semester</u>	
ADN Courses (\$93.00 x 17 credit hours)	\$1581.00
Lab Fees	\$100.00
State Board Exam Fee	\$291.00
Exit Testing and Board Review	\$250.00
Travel Expense *Health Insurance	Varies
<i>Total for Spring Semester</i>	<i>\$2222.00</i>
<u>Post Graduation Fees (required to practice)</u>	
Fingerprint Fee for State Board Exam	\$64.00
Nursing License	\$50.00
<i>Total for Post Graduation Fees</i>	<i>\$114.00</i>
<i>Approximate Total <u>without developmental course(s), health screenings, travel and insurance fees</u></i>	<i>\$7512.00</i>
ALL costs are approximate and subject to change.	
*Required general education courses: English 1101, Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology I, and Anatomy & Physiology II. Practical Nursing Certificate is not listed on cost list but is a requirement.	
*Additional lab fees & technical fees will be applied and vary by course. Estimated cost is tuition only.	
**Proof of health screening: must have physical exam, TB skin test, rubella titer, varicella titer, Hepatitis B series. The health screening is a requirement of all clinical agencies.	
***Travel will include driving to and from RLC and travel to and from clinical sites.	
****Proof of health insurance is a requirement of all clinical agencies. The cost of health insurance is not a Rend Lake College charge, nor does the College offer a student policy. Each student is responsible for obtaining and maintaining health care insurance coverage through the entire program.	