

**NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE  
DIVISION OF NURSING  
LPN CHALLENGE OF NURSING COURSES**

**NOTE: The LPN challenge student must be able to complete the nursing program within 2 years after starting the Maternal Child Nursing course. If this requirement is not met, the student has the option of repeating the program in its entirety, with approval from the faculty and/or chair.**

**Policy**

The opportunity to receive credit for designated nursing courses is limited to LPNs who hold current active unencumbered LPN licensure. Challenge applicants must meet the following guidelines:

- Hold current active unencumbered LPN license.
- Meet criteria for admission to the nursing program.
- Complete required core courses with a grade of C or better.
- Successfully pass three challenge exams: NLN Nursing Acceleration Challenge Exam (NACE) tests - (1) Foundations of Nursing, (2) Nursing Care of Adults, and (3) Nursing Care of Client with Mental Illness. These exams must be completed before enrolling in NURS 1253: Transition to Registered Nursing.
- Successfully complete NURS 1253: Transition to Registered Nursing (offered summer and fall L8 terms) with a grade of C or better.
- Applicants who have not completed a mental health clinical rotation of at least 24 clinical hours or did not successfully pass the Nursing Care of Client with Mental Illness challenge exam must complete NURS 1353: Introduction to Psychiatric Nursing (offered summer term) with a grade of C or better.

Upon completion of the above requirements, the LPN applicant will be eligible for advanced standing in the Associate Degree (RN) nursing program at the level of achievement on the three challenge exams. Advanced positions are competitive in terms of the student's ability to achieve at the level of entry and the capacity of the program to accommodate additional students at that level.

- Credit for the challenged nursing courses will be recorded as Advanced Placement (AP) and filed with the registrar's office after completion of 12 credit hours at Northern Oklahoma College.
- LPN applicants must enter the nursing program within the academic year after passing NURS 1253: Transition to Registered Nursing.

## **Procedure**

1. Submit an application for acceptance to Northern Oklahoma College. Designate Nursing-Pre-Bacc Associate of Science as the degree option.
  2. Make an appointment with the nursing office to enroll in non-nursing courses.
  3. The applicant must complete at least 17 credits of general education\* and core courses\*\* before entry into the fall semester nursing course (NURS 2334). These credits must include:
    - a. PSYC 1113 General Psychology, with a minimum grade of C
    - b. SOCI 1113 Principles of Sociology, with a minimum grade of C
    - c. BIOL 1114 Biology **or** CHEM 1315 General Chemistry I **and**
    - d. BIOL 2214 Human Anatomy & Physiology with a minimum grade of C
    - e. NURS 1253 Transition to Registered Nursing with a minimum grade of C
- Applicants do not have to have all of the courses completed before the challenge tests, but they must be completed before enrolling in 2000-level nursing courses.
4. The NLN challenge exams are administered remotely as arranged with the Nursing Division Staff Assistant. Fees must be paid directly to NLN prior to the exam. Competency is demonstrated by achieving a score of 74% or higher. Applicants will be allowed two attempts to achieve the benchmark score on each exam.
  5. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. LPN challenge applicants must have all requirements completed and submit a completed application to the Associate Degree (RN) Nursing Program by March 1 for summer start or September 1 for fall (late 8 weeks) start.
  6. NURS 1253: Transition to Registered Nursing must be successfully completed to be eligible to enter the nursing program at any advanced level.
  7. Applicants who have not completed a mental health clinical rotation of at least 24 clinical hours or did not successfully pass the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing exam must complete NURS 1353: Introduction to Psychiatric Nursing (offered summer term) with a grade of C or better.
  8. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the current degree plan for course progression and meet with an academic advisor to review the Academic Plan upon admission. Enrollment in all courses should be done in collaboration with the Division of Nursing.
  9. To qualify for advanced standing credit the nursing applicants must:
    - a. meet criteria for admission to the nursing program.
    - b. complete the required core courses with a grade of C or better.
    - c. show proof of current active, unencumbered LPN licensure.
    - d. have successfully completed the challenge examinations.
    - e. have been accepted for admission to the Associate Degree (RN) Nursing program.