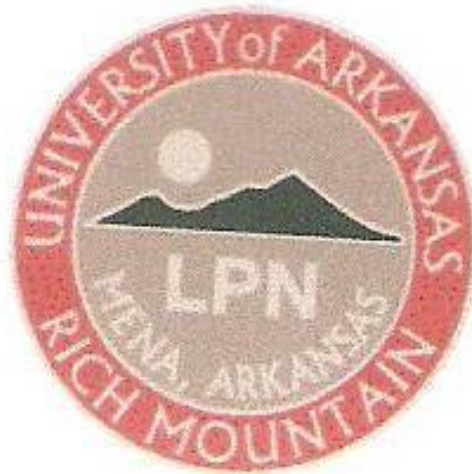




Practical Nursing
Program

Application Information
2025 - 2026



(Updated 1/2025)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RICH MOUNTAIN PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

The Practical Nursing Program is an eleven-month program that combines classroom instruction with clinical experience. Students successfully completing the Practical Nursing Program are awarded a Technical Certificate. After graduation, students may apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN). Persons convicted of a crime may not be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN for licensure as a practical nurse. The Practical Nursing Program has been granted full approval by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.

APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing application for licensure requires appropriate documentation, a written response to specific items, and a Criminal Background Check by the Arkansas State Police and FBI. Any student who has been convicted of a crime may be ineligible to take the NCLEX-PN. The following are questions requiring a response on the Practical Nurse Examination Application:

1. Have you ever had a nursing license, certificate or registration encumbered (revoked, suspended, placed on probation or reprimanded) or voluntarily surrendered in any state or jurisdiction?
2. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
(If yes, please include a copy of the court docket, plea agreement, or conviction papers, and evidence that fines, restitution are paid)
Please note: With the exception of DUI, traffic violations DO NOT constitute a crime.
3. Do you currently engage in drug-related behavior, including the use of mood-altering drugs/substances and/or alcohol that would affect your functional abilities to perform while working as a nurse?
4. In the last two years, have you been the subject of a chemical or alcohol dependency intervention or participated in chemical or alcohol dependency treatment/rehabilitation?

GRADUATION FROM THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE GRADUATE WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE NCLEX-PN.

Please read the following section of the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act:

17-3-102. Licensing restrictions based on criminal records.

(a) An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by a licensing entity if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq., or otherwise previously sealed, pardoned or expunged under prior law:

- (1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
- (2) Murder in the first degree and second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and 5-10-103;
- (3) Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;
- (4) Negligent homicide as prohibited in § 5-10-105;
- (5) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
- (6) False imprisonment in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-11-103;
- (7) Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in § 5-11-106;
- (8) Robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-102;
- (9) Aggravated robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-103;
- (10) Battery in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-201;
- (11) Aggravated assault as prohibited in § 5-13-204;
- (12) Introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in § 5-13-210;

- (13) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
- (14) Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301;
- (15) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
- (16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony;
- (17) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;
- (18) Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 — 5-14-127;
- (19) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
- (20) Offenses against the family as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 — 5-26-306;
- (21) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
- (22) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
- (23) Permitting the abuse of a minor as prohibited in § 5-27-221;
- (24) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 — 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;
- (25) Possession or use of child sexual abuse material as prohibited in § 5-27-603;
- (26) Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605;
- (27) Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
- (28) Theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;
- (29) Theft by receiving as prohibited in § 5-36-106;
- (30) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;
- (31) Burglary as prohibited in § 5-39-201;
- (32) Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, § 5-64-101 et seq., as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401, and §§ 5-64-419 — 5-64-442;
- (33) Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-70-104;
- (34) Stalking as prohibited in § 5-71-229;
- (35) Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy, as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection; and
- (36) All other crimes referenced in this title.

(b)

- (1) If an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) or subsection (e) of this section, a licensing entity may waive disqualification or revocation of a license based on the conviction if a request for a waiver is made by:
 - (A) An affected applicant for a license; or
 - (B) The individual holding a license subject to revocation.
- (2) A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:
 - (A) The age at which the offense was committed;
 - (B) The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - (C) The length of time since the offense was committed;
 - (D) Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;
 - (E) Employment references since the offense was committed;
 - (F) Character references since the offense was committed;
 - (G) Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
 - (H) Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.
- (3) The waiver requirements of this section are not required for a renewal of a license if an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section and has either:
 - (A) Completed the waiver requirements of this section at his or her initial licensure;
 - (B) Been licensed in this state before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section; or

(C) Attended a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.

(c) If an individual has a valid criminal conviction for an offense that could disqualify the individual from receiving a license, the disqualification shall not be considered for more than five (5) years from the date of conviction or incarceration or on which probation ends, whichever date is the latest, if the individual:

(A) Was not convicted for committing a violent or sexual offense; and

(B) Has not been convicted of any other offense during the five-year disqualification period.

(d) A licensing entity shall not, as a basis upon which a license may be granted or denied:

(1) Use vague or generic terms, including without limitation the phrases “moral turpitude” and “good character”; or

(2) Consider arrests without a subsequent conviction.

(e) Due to the serious nature of the offenses, the following shall result in disqualification for licensure, regardless of the date of conviction or the date on which probation or incarceration ends unless a waiver is granted under subsection (b) of this section:

(1) Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;

(2) Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;

(3) Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;

(4) Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;

(5) Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;

(6) Sexual extortion as prohibited in § 5-14-113;

(7) Sexual assault in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-14-124 and sexual assault in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-14-125;

(8) Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;

(9) Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;

(10) Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;

(11) Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in § 5-28-103;

(12) Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301; and

(13) Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child, as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 — 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403.

(f) This chapter does not preclude a licensing entity from taking emergency action against a licensee as authorized under § 25-15-211 for the sake of public health, safety, or welfare.

(g) The disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (a) of this section and the disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (e) of this section do not apply to:

(1) An individual who holds a valid license on July 24, 2019;

(2) An individual who holds a valid license on or before July 24, 2019, but failed to renew his or her license for any reason; or

(3) An individual who was a student on or before July 24, 2019, in a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.

(h) This section does not apply to licensure or certification:

(1) Of professions not governed by this title;

(2) Of polygraph examiners and voice stress analysis examiners under § 17-39-101 et seq.;

(3) Of private investigators and private security agencies under the Private Security Agency, Private Investigator, and School Security Licensing and Credentialing Act, § 17-40-101 et seq.;

(4) Of body artists under § 17-26-601 et seq. who hold a valid license on or before July 1, 2024; or

(5) Of cosmetologists licensed under Title 17, Chapter 26, Subchapter 3.

17-87-312. Criminal background checks.

(a)

(1) Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall apply to the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check,

to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) At the time a person applies to an Arkansas nursing educational program, the program shall notify the applicant in writing of the provisions and requirements of this section.

(b) The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.

(c) The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Division of Arkansas

State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.

(d) Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant.

(e) For purposes of this section, the board shall follow the licensing restrictions based on criminal records under § 17-3-102.

(f)

(1) The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit for licensure to a first-time applicant pending the results of the criminal background check.

(2) The permit shall be valid for no more than six (6) months.

(g)

(1) Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police

under this section shall not be available for examination except by:

(A) The affected applicant for licensure or his or her authorized representative; or

(B) The person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative.

(2) No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

(h) Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.

(i) Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.

(j) The board shall adopt the necessary rules to fully implement the provisions of this section.

(k)

(1) The board may participate at the state and federal level in programs that provide notification of an arrest

subsequent to an initial background check that is conducted through available governmental systems.

(2) The board may submit an applicant's fingerprints to the federal Next Generation Identification system.

(3) The fingerprints may be searched by future submissions to the Next Generation Identification system, including latent fingerprint searches.

(4) An applicant enrolled in the Next Generation Identification system is not required to re-fingerprint when a

subsequent request for a state or federal criminal history background check is required if:

(A) A legible set of the applicant's fingerprints is obtained when the applicant enrolls in the Next Generation

Identification system; and

(B) The applicant is subject to the Rap Back service of the Next Generation Identification system.

(l) The Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may maintain fingerprints in the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

(Updated 9/26/2023)

Admission Criteria

Students must apply in person and provide the following:

Submit to the **Admissions Office**:

1. UA Rich Mountain Application for Admission
2. High School Transcript or official proof of GED
3. College Transcripts from all colleges attended
4. Proof of Measles/Rubella Immunization (if born after January 1, 1957)
5. ACT, COMPASS or ACCUPLACER scores (previous scores may be used or ASSET or COMPASS may be retaken)

Submit to the **Academic and Instructional Affairs Office**:

1. Practical Nursing Admission Application
2. Nursing Entrance Exam (NEX) results*
3. ACT, COMPASS or ACCUPLACER scores
4. Copy of all college transcripts including UARM transcripts

Submit to the **Nursing Program Director** at registration:

1. Current American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers Certification Card
2. Current TB skin test card
3. COVID-19 Vaccinations: UARM does not mandate that students who are enrolled receive a COVID-19 vaccine series (and any recommended boosters), but they are strongly encouraged to do so. However, the clinical facilities that partner with UARM and its member colleges establish their own policies, and they may require that faculty members and nursing students be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to work in the facility or be assigned to specific areas in that facility. Therefore, students electing not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine series or boosters may not be able to complete program clinical requirements, which will result in non-progression through the program. Clinical facilities may also request information regarding COVID vaccination status for any student and faculty assigned to the site. Faculty and students who have received the COVID-19 vaccine should submit a copy for their file. **All admission required immunizations must be current upon acceptance and maintained during the program.** Other immunizations may be required per facility (for example; the influenza vaccine).

Note: If the student opts out of any vaccine, they may be excluded from certain clinical experiences based on the clinical institution's policy. This could affect the student's standing within the practicum courses if they are unable to obtain the required clinical hours.

*The NEX exam will be scheduled at designated times and administered by the Testing Center.. There will be a \$52.50 fee for the exam. Allow approximately 3 hours to complete. For more information on the NEX exam, please visit <https://www.nln.org>

Following the completion of the admission requirements by the **designated deadline of May 29 no later than 4:30 p.m.**, the applicant will be considered for the selection pool. An applicant's file is not complete until all admission requirements have been submitted.

It is the policy of University of Arkansas Rich Mountain not to discriminate on the basis of sex, color, religion, age, national origin, veteran, or qualified disability in educational programs, activities, admission, or employment practices.

Important – any individual having been convicted of a crime may not be eligible to write the exam for licensure.

All applicants to the Practical Nursing Program who have met the required admission requirements will be evaluated according to the criteria specified. Each applicant will be ranked on the basis of total points. Students will be admitted to the program until the class is full. Should 2 or more applicants receive the same number of points, the determining factor for admission will be:

1. Total points on the NEX, followed by
2. Total points on the ACCUPLACER, COMPASS or ACT, followed by
3. Total points on previous education, followed by
4. Date of completion of admission criteria.

It is the applicant's responsibility to submit all required documents and to make all appointments and pay all fees for testing.

ADMISSION

Students chosen for admission into the program will be notified by letter via email to the email address on your application. Admission will be contingent on the student completing a criminal background check. Background checks will be reviewed by the Nursing Program Director and/or the Nursing Program Advisory Committee before final admission into the program.

READMISSION

A student who does not successfully complete the first semester must complete the application process again and compete for a position in a subsequent class.

A student who drops after successfully completing the Fall semester, may return to complete the Spring semester within one year, provided a space is available.

A student who drops after successfully completing the Fall and Spring semesters, may return to complete the Summer semester within one year, provided space is available.

A student who does not successfully complete the Spring or the Summer semester may re-enroll in that semester within one year, provided a space is available.

A student who re-enters the program must enroll in and successfully complete all of the practical nursing courses for the semester they did not successfully complete.

NO STUDENT SHALL BE ALLOWED TO RE-ENTER THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM MORE THAN ONE TIME.

TRANSFER

Students may be accepted who have completed courses at another practical nursing program within the previous year. Transcript and course descriptions will be evaluated by the program director. The student must provide an official transcript and syllabi for all practical nursing courses being transferred. The student will be required to pass skills testing for all skills which were covered in courses being transferred. The student may be required to pass written competency tests.

ADVANCED STANDING

Advanced standing may be granted for previous educational experience by granting credit for specific courses through testing – i.e. instructor made examinations, practical examinations, and/or achievement tests. Approval is given by the Practical Nursing Program Director.

PROGRESSION

Students must successfully complete all courses in the Fall semester before enrolling in the Spring semester and must successfully complete all courses in the Spring semester before enrolling in the Summer semester.

GRADUATION

Students may be awarded a Technical Certificate and be eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing after completing the following requirements:

1. Obtaining a minimum grade of “C” on all Practical Nursing Courses.
2. Completing a minimum of 560 clock hours of theory and 768 clock hours of laboratory practice in the areas required by Arkansas State Board of Nursing.
3. Discharge all financial obligations to the college prior to graduation.
4. Complete a NCLEX-PN Review Program and a comprehensive assessment test prior to graduation.
5. Participate in graduation exercises.

Curriculum

FALL SEMESTER

Nursing of the Geriatric Patient	McCourtney
Nursing of Adult Patients I	Rosson
Body Structure & Function*	Faculty
Basic Nursing Principles & Skills	McCourtney
Pharmacology I	Faculty
Nursing Clinical I	Faculty

SPRING SEMESTER

Nursing of Adult Patients II	Rosson
Pharmacology II	Faculty
Nursing of Mothers & Infants	McCourtney
Nursing of Children	McCourtney
Vocational, Legal, and Ethical Concepts	Rosson
Nursing Clinical II	Faculty
Mental Health	McCourtney

SUMMER SEMESTER

Nutrition in Health and Illness	McCourtney
Nursing of Adult Patients III	Rosson
Nursing Clinical III	Faculty

*Body Structure and Function may not be required if Anatomy and Physiology I and II have been taken within the last 5 years with a minimum grade of a “C”.

Students must enroll in ALL courses for each semester.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RICH MOUNTAIN
PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Student Costs/Fees
(Dollar amounts are approximate
and are subject to change)

	In-District	In-State Out-of-District	Out-of-State
TUITION (52 hr) and FEES	\$8154.00	\$8882.00	\$9402.00
KIT CHARGE Uniforms, Books, Lab Skills Pack	\$1500.00	\$1500.00	\$1500.00
LAMP & PIN (Pinning Ceremony)	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Pre-NCLEX Assessment Test	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
NCLEX Review	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
*LICENSURE EXAMINATION FEES			
*Arkansas State Board of Nursing	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
*National Council of State Boards of Nursing	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
*Background Check & Fingerprints	\$43.00	\$43.00	\$43.00
*Drug Screen	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00
TOTAL	\$10,483.00	\$11,211.00	\$11,731.00

LPN Program Selection Criteria

All applicants to the Practical Nursing Program who have met the required admission requirements will be evaluated according to the following criteria. Each applicant will be ranked on the basis of total points.

Points awarded are:

Nursing Entrance Exam (NEX)	15 points possible
ACCUPLACER, ACT, or COMPASS	9 points possible
Previous Education	4 points possible
Work Experience	4 points possible
Medical Terminology Course	1 point possible
Certified Nursing Assistant	1 point possible
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	34