



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE
School of Nursing

Practical Nursing (PN)

Application Booklet

Summer 2025

Visit <https://irsc.edu/programs/nursing-as-degree.html> for more information.

IRSC Communication Center

1-866-792-4772

www.irsc.edu

IRSC OVERVIEW

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE (IRSC) is a public, comprehensive college with a statewide and national reputation for excellence. Located in Florida's Treasure Coast region, each of the College's five campuses provide unparalleled educational environments.

IRSC serves approximately 30,000 students annually and offers more than 100 programs leading to Bachelor's degrees, Associate degrees, technical certificates and applied technology diplomas. Continuing a 60-year tradition of responsiveness to community needs, IRSC is committed to advancing educational, cultural, career training, workforce and economic development in its service area.

IRSC was distinguished as the 2019 winner of the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, an honor that recognizes outstanding quality in the areas of completion & transfer, labor market outcomes, learning, equity and more. IRSC is one of the few colleges in the nation to earn the Achieving the Dream™ Leader College designation. The College is identified by the United States Department of Education as the most affordable college in Florida and the third-most affordable college in the country.

EA/EO STATEMENT

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

Adriene B. Jefferson, *Dean of Northwest Center,*
Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator
Massey Campus ▪ 3209 Virginia Ave. ▪ Fort Pierce, FL 34981 772-462-7156

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to the Practical Nursing (PN) Program.....	4
Application Checklist.....	5
Selective Admissions.....	6
Licensure Requirements.....	7
Applying and Entrance Exam.....	7
Admission Requirements.....	10
Clinical Clearance.....	11
Health Requirements and Health Insurance	12
Dismissal and Readmission.....	12
Program Expenses.....	13
Financial Aid.....	13
Complaints.....	13
Bridge to ADN Option.....	14

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICAL NURSING (PN) PROGRAM

Vision Statement

- IRSC School of Nursing (SON) aspires to be a model of excellence by transforming students through nursing education.

Purpose Statement

The School of Nursing at IRSC is committed to meeting the educational needs of future and current professional and vocational nurses within an ever-changing healthcare system. Faculty facilitates student achievement utilizing various teaching modalities. In our effort to serve the global community and its diverse cultures, we commit to:

- Develop excellence in nursing education and practice
- Provide quality, student-centered learning to promote student success
- Create multi-dimensional learning experiences
- Foster partnerships within the community that promote cultural enrichment and opportunities to strengthen involvement in local, national, and global health issues
- Support lifelong learning and ethical practice

Philosophy

We believe:

- Nursing is a humanistic, scientific discipline that encompasses evidence-based practice and critical thinking to improve the quality of the human experience.
- The art and science of nursing embodies the core values of caring, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity, and patient-centeredness.
- Nursing education focuses on articulating relationships between the following concepts: context and environment, knowledge and science, personal and professional development, quality and safety, relationship-centered care, and teamwork.
- In a culture of excellence that provides individualized, quality care for patients, families, and communities.
- In cultivating an environment of civility, professionalism, equity, and inclusivity.



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE
School of Nursing

PRACTICAL NURSING

Steps for Submitting a Qualified Application

1.	Read the entire Practical Nursing Program Application Booklet.
2.	Attend a virtual information session (see https://irsc.edu/programs/practical-nursing.html for dates and times).
3.	Ensure age requirement is met for clinical rotations. All applicants must be 18 years of age prior to the first day of clinical (within 2 months of the first day of class).
4.	Ensure eligibility criteria is met for licensure testing in Florida, as identified by the Florida Board of Nursing. Social security numbers, background checks, and drug screens are required for clinical placement by the healthcare facilities.
5.	Meet with a Nursing Student Success Coach to ensure you meet the admission criteria for the PN program, and to determine if you will need to take the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education).
6.	Start the application process by visiting the Nursing PN webpage and selecting the blue "APPLY HERE" button. Pay the application fee and then return to the application page. Click SUBMIT to ensure your application is received by the School of Nursing.
7.	All final official transcripts must be received by Student Records records@irsc.edu at the close of the application period (see website for application dates).
8.	Register and pay for the HESI A2 Entrance Exam. Visit the "HESI A2 Admission Entrance Exam" webpage for information on paying, registering, and scheduling your test. Link may be found on PN program webpage.
9.	Applicants who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces may be awarded five additional points to their total overall score. Applicants must meet with a representative of the Military and Veteran Services Department to submit a copy of their DD-214 Member-4 Form prior to the application deadline.

SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Practical Nursing (PN) Program

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations.

Attainment of the Vocational Certificate for Practical Nursing consists of completing 1350 clock hours, in 22-months. See College Catalog for complete list of program requirements. If you have a change in personal information (name change, address, phone number, email), submit the changes to Student Records records@irsc.edu and the School of Nursing IRSCSONprograminfo@irsc.edu. The School of Nursing will use the email address listed on your application for all communication, including admission letters. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their personal information is accurate and the application process is complete.

Beginning Summer 2025, the Practical Nursing program will be part-time, evenings and weekends. Meeting admission criteria does not guarantee acceptance into the Practical Nursing program. All application requirements must be received by the application deadline, or your application may not be considered. Applicants are expected to attend one virtual information session prior to submitting an application (see webpage for dates and times).

Applicants should meet with a Student Success Coach to determine if course requirements are met. If general education courses are being transferred from another institution, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they are all received. Only final, official transcripts submitted to Student Records records@irsc.edu by the application deadline will be evaluated.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monthly virtual information sessions provide applicants the opportunity to ask about the Practical Nursing (PN) program, and understand how to become a qualified applicant. Registration and attendance to one virtual info session is expected. Visit <https://irsc.edu/programs/practical-nursing.html> for dates and times.

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

Indian River State College offers a number of different degrees and certificates leading to professional licensure in the state of Florida. Some professions require both a degree and the successful completion of additional criteria, such as licensure exams, field placements, or clinical hours. Student eligibility to apply to sit for the NCLEX-PN exam in the State of Florida is defined in 464.008, F.S., and also includes possession of a valid form of identification and a social security number. Please visit the Florida Board of Nursing <https://floridasnursing.gov/> to ensure your eligibility.

If your future plans include achieving licensure or certification, you should know requirements vary by state. For the Practical Nursing (PN) program, completion of program requirements grants eligibility to apply to take the National Counsel Licensure Examination (NCLEX) PN in Florida or one of the other nursing compact states, if you apply for a multi-state license under the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). A list of current compact states can be located on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing website <https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

APPLYING TO THE PN PROGRAM

Introduction

The Practical Nursing program is designed to prepare students for a career as a Licensed Practical Nurse. The curriculum is spread throughout four courses of 1350 clock-hours.

PRN 0004C	Practical Nursing Fundamentals	500 hours
PRN 0373C	Practical Nursing Medical Surgical I	350 hours
PRN 0374C	Practical Nursing Medical Surgical II	350 hours
PRN 0933C	Transition to Graduate Practical Nurse	150 hours

HESI A2 – ENTRANCE EXAM

The Practical Nursing program requires applicants to demonstrate competency in basic math, reading comprehension, anatomy and physiology, biology, and vocabulary and general

knowledge. Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) specializes in developing testing products, such as the A2 Exam, for nursing programs.

Results from this exam are components of the selective admissions process. IRSC provides assistance in preparing for this examination. The HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review (latest edition) book is available for purchase at the IRSC RiverShop and most major book retailers. The Tutoring Center offers free tutoring, study sessions, and study materials for the exam. Attendance is not required. Visit <https://irsc.libguides.com/TutoringCenters> for more information, or join an information session.

ABOUT

The HESI A2 is a multiple-choice exam comprised of five primary subject-areas, and an assessment to determine your preferred learning style (visual / auditory / kinesthetic). Applicants are provided three hours to complete the exam; no breaks are provided. Exams are completed at an IRSC Campus Assessment Center. There is no remote testing available. Scores from other institutions will not be accepted. See the HESI A2 Entrance Exam information page <https://irsc.edu/admissions/hesi-a2-admissions-assessment-exam.html> for the most current information about scheduling the HESI A2 exam after you submit your application.

Applicants may take the HESI A2 once per application period. Scores are valid for one year from the date the most current test was taken. Notify the School of Nursing via email to have previous HESI A2 scores applied to an application. Applicants are NOT responsible for submitting scores. HESI Exam holds will be removed from Workday within 72 hours of the exam.

HESI A2 Subjects

1. Anatomy and Physiology: 30-item exam. Provides coverage of general terminology and anatomical structures and systems.
2. Basic Math: 55-item exam. Focused on math skills needed in healthcare fields, including basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, ratios and proportions, household measures, and general math facts.
3. Biology: 30-item exam. Covers biology basics: water, biological molecules, metabolism, cells, cellular respiration, and photosynthesis.
4. Reading Comprehension: 55-item exam. Provides reading scenarios in order to measure reading comprehension, identifying the main idea, finding meaning of words in context, passage comprehension, and making logical inferences.
5. Vocabulary and General Knowledge: 55-item exam. Contains vocabulary terms that are commonly used in both general English-speaking settings and in healthcare fields.

6. Learning Styles: 14-item section. Helps to identify your preferred method of learning, and provides insight into the most beneficial study techniques for you, as an individual. The score from this section is NOT included in the Cumulative Composite score, nor as a factor in the admissions process.

CALCULATING ADMISSION POINTS

Admissions points are calculated using the table below. Applicants who achieve a minimum score of 75% in the Cumulative Composite, Anatomy & Physiology, and Basic Math sections, will receive a seat first. Remaining applicants are selected based on the highest total points awarded until all available seats are filled.

Points are also awarded for the following:	Grade	Points
8417100 Health Science Foundations I	A/B	1
8417110 Health Science Foundations II	A/B	1
841717121 Allied Health Assisting	A/B	1
8417191 Home Health Aide	A/B	1
8417211 Nursing Assistant	A/B	1
Valid State Certification for Nursing Assistant or Medical Assisting		1
Work verification letter from Nursing Administrator (1000 work hours)		1

HOW TO CALCULATE ADMISSIONS POINTS FOR PN

HESI A2 Subject Areas	Score
Anatomy & Physiology	
Basic Math	
Biology	
Reading Comprehension	
Vocabulary and General Knowledge	
TOTAL (sum of subject areas)	
Cumulative Composite Score (x2)	
Additional Points	Points Awarded
8417100 Health Science Foundations I	
8417110 Health Science Foundations II	
841717121 Allied Health Assisting	
8417191 Home Health Aide	
8417211 Nursing Assistant	

Valid State Certification for Nursing Assistant or Medical Assisting	
Work verification letter from Nursing Administrator (1000 work hours)	
Military – add 5 points	
Total Points Added	
FINAL TOTAL – number used in the selective admissions process: (Sum of HESI A2 Subject Areas) + (Cumulative Composite Score x2) + (Sum of Additional Points Added)	

PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE

The School of Nursing will notify applicants via email regarding the status of their application two-to-three weeks after the application closes. Qualified applicants are selected as *provisional accepted* or *provisional alternate*, using the point system on page 7.

Provisional alternate applicants will receive a seat in the PN program as they are relinquished. Students will be notified by telephone and/or email when they are removed from the alternate list, and given a provisional accepted seat. Provisional alternate status expires on the second day of class. Remaining applicants will receive an email confirming the applicant pool has closed.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be completed after provisional acceptance/alternate acceptance letter is received:

- 10-panel drug screen
- Level 2 Federal Bureau of Investigations National Background Check (FBI/NBC)

Once the drug screen **and** background check are accepted by the School of Nursing, provisional applicants may begin uploading requirements to Complio, a third-party platform used to store student health records and clinical rotations. Instructions for creating a user account are included with provisional acceptance and provisional alternate letters.

- Details regarding requirements for submission of medical records will be provided at General Orientation (see website for dates). **Please note:** Failure to submit any requirement may cause the applicant to be moved to the bottom of the alternate list.
 - Annual physical exam, indicating applicant meets Performance Standards for Admission and Progression
 - American Heart Association CPR BLS (Basic Life Support)
 - Immunizations:
 - Annual influenza vaccination
 - Annual tuberculosis screening
 - Varicella

- MMR
- TDAP
- Hepatitis B

CLINICAL CLEARANCE

Student Background and Drug Screen, Social Security Number, Medical Records, Health Insurance

Clinical Clearance requires all student backgrounds, drug screens, social security numbers, and health records to be shared with clinical facilities. This information is collected throughout the admission process, and for any student out of the PN program for six months or more. Students who have a convicted offense on their background may be subject to approval by the clinical facility, and are not guaranteed clinical placement, resulting in no guarantee of completion of required coursework for program completion, and state certification/licensure. The clinical facility does hold the right to request additional information regarding the criminal offense and may decline the student for clinical placement.

All students are expected to review the requirements for licensure on the Florida Board of Nursing website. Applicants with criminal history, or those without a social security number, may not be eligible for clinical placement, or to obtain a license. Any changes in criminal history must be immediately reported to the School of Nursing. A complete list of program requirements can be found on page 11.

The Florida Board of Nursing (FLBON) requires additional criminal checks on all applicants for licensure; any applicant with an arrest history is required to present their records. The FLBON is the state agency authorized to issue nursing licenses. As part of the licensure application process, graduates will be required to submit a signed statement verifying compliance with the Agency for Health Care Administration Florida Board rule 64 B 9-3.0.

All four-county facilities are drug free places of employment. IRSC has been asked to require negative drug screens for all program applicants who will be placed in a clinical rotation. Applicants must submit a 10-panel drug screen, and may be subject to random drug screens throughout the program. Should an applicant receive a positive drug screen, the applicant may reapply to the School of Nursing after a positive reference from a treatment team who has followed the applicant for a minimum of two years throughout the applicant's chemical dependence. Please email Mandie Finkelstein afinkelstein@irsc.edu for questions regarding clinical clearance.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Applicants will be asked to submit a physical and history of immunizations upon admission (see page 10 for complete list of admission requirements). Those who do not meet the Performance Standards for Admission and Progression relating to Standards of Good Physical and Mental Health (no restrictions) may not be eligible for clinical placement, and progression in the program. As required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, applicants may reapply after the resolution of the health problem; updated medical records must be submitted to the School of Nursing.

Should a change in health status occur while enrolled in the program, students may be required to obtain a medical clearance by a physician, nurse practitioner, or mental health practitioner.

HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDELINES

Students in the PN program must have continuous coverage of healthcare insurance. Proof of insurance will be required at time of admission, and at the beginning of each semester. All records must be kept current; any change in health insurance coverage must be reported to the School of Nursing within 24 hours of the occurrence.

DENIAL/DISMISSAL FROM THE PN APPLICANT POOL

Applicants who are not accepted to the PN Program will be notified via email. Applicants should discuss options with an Academic Advisor, or Student Success Coach. If you are dismissed from the PN applicant pool, you may schedule an appointment with the School of Nursing to discuss future options.

READMISSION PROCESS

Students who were previously admitted to the Practical Nursing program, and either failed or withdrew from PRN004C, can view readmission processes in the Nursing Student Handbook. Applicants should confirm they still meet the admission requirements before submitting a new application. Applicants who are granted readmission, will need to complete a new Level II Background Check and 10-panel Drug Screen. All students who fail or withdraw from an PRN course, will meet with the Department Chair to discuss return options. HESI A2 scores may be used for two applications. Email the School of Nursing to use previous test scores.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM EXPENSES

A list of approximate costs is located on the PN webpage at <https://irsc.edu/programs/practical-nursing.html>. In addition to these costs, the candidate should allow for room and board, transportation, and personal living expenses. Note that non-Florida resident tuition is a higher rate per clock-hour, which will increase total fees accordingly. While in the program, students must also maintain health insurance coverage at their own expense.

Students will create an account with Complio, from American Databank, Inc. This platform is used to store students' medical records while they are in their program, and for clinical rotations. Costs for Complio are included in the program expenses listed on the PN webpage.

FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid (grants, loans, work-study) is available to those who qualify. Complete the FAFSA and IRSC Supplemental Financial Aid Application to determine eligibility. For more information, contact the IRSC Financial Aid Office at 772-462-7450 or join the line with Qless at any IRSC Campus.

Scholarships designated for students in the Nursing programs may also be available. Scholarship opportunities are available through MyPioneerPortal.

The application deadline for all IRSC Nursing Scholarships can be found on the IRSC website. See www.irscfoundation.org for the exact deadline date for each scholarship.

COMPLAINT GUIDELINES

A suggested process for resolving complaints/grievances within the School of Nursing has been recommended. **A student should always discuss issues with the involved parties, e.g., Instructor/Department Chair and the Dean of Nursing.** Academic and disciplinary decisions may be appealed.

All IRSC students have the opportunity to request a formal review of their complaint following the "Student Grievance Procedure" outlined in the *IRSC Student Handbook/Planner*.

Successful graduates of the Practical Nursing program should consider applying for ADN/RN TRACK TWO after successful completion of the PN program:

ADN PROGRAM: ADVANCED PLACEMENT / BRIDGE OPTION

Exclusively for Licensed Practical Nurses, Licensed Paramedics, and Registered Respiratory Therapists who want to earn their RN License. Students who advance place into NUR 1034C Nursing Concepts 2, will receive ten competency credits for NUR 1021C Nursing Concepts 1, at the end of the program. See the Essential Guide for ADN/RN Applicants for more information.

Application Criteria:

- Certified LPN, PMD, RRT – valid, unencumbered, Florida state license
- Track One Application Criteria (see ADN Application Booklet)
- Track One Admission Criteria (see ADN Application Booklet)
- Completion of application pre-requisites, with a minimum grade of “C” listed on final official transcript by close of application date:
 - BSC 2085 Anatomy & Physiology 1
 - BSC 2085L Anatomy & Physiology 1 Lab
 - HUN 1201 Nutrition
 - PSY 2012 Psychology
- Completion of pre-requisites to NUR 1034C Nursing Concepts 2, with a minimum grade of “C” listed on final official transcript before semester begins:
 - BSC 2086 Anatomy & Physiology 2
 - BSC 2086L Anatomy & Physiology 2 Lab
 - MAC 1105 College Algebra **OR** MGF 1130 Mathematical Thinking
- Successful completion of Competency Performance Exam:
 - Math/Medication Calculation Exam
 - Written Fundamental Nursing Knowledge Exam
 - Nursing Concepts 1 Performance Skills Competency Exam (with added competency credit fees)

Applicants who have completed a Florida Practical Nursing Program within the past three years and who have an active, unencumbered Florida LPN may be exempt from testing. The Associate Degree Nursing Department Chair will review the requirements with each individual at General Orientation.