

Practical Nursing Diploma: Part-Time Option

Hutchinson & Willmar | Fall Start | Part-Time | 40 credits

Semester 1 – Start Your Warrior Mission



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGL 1209/1210	College Composition I (See Advisor)*	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	BIOL 1080	Human Biology*	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	PSYC 1310	Introduction to Psychology*	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	HLTH 1130	Medical Terminology*	3
TOTAL CREDITS			14

Semester 2 – One Step Closer

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 1000	Foundations of Practical Nursing^	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 1300	Pharmacology & the Role of the Practical Nurse^	2
TOTAL CREDITS			6

Semester 3 – Keep It Going

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 2100	Nursing Care of Adults^^	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 2200	Nursing Care of Women/Newborns/Children^^	3
TOTAL CREDITS			6

Semester 4 – Getting So Close

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 1200	Nursing Care of Older Adults^	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 1400	Clinical I	3
TOTAL CREDITS			7

Semester 5 – The Final Stretch

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURSE #	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 2300	Transition to Practice	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRNU 2500	Clinical II	6
TOTAL CREDITS			7

NOTES

*Pre-Nursing Courses

Semesters 2-5 are offered on a part-time basis only.

^Course only offered in fall semester

^^Course only offered in spring semester

This is a sample academic plan. Students should work with their faculty or academic advisors when registering. Sample plan created without developmental courses; if developmental courses are required, program duration may be extended.

Ridgewater College is a member of Minnesota State and an equal opportunity employer/educator. Updated: 1/2026

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Ridgewater College is offering an additional option for students who want to pursue the Practical Nursing program but cannot commit to a full-time schedule. This option reduces the number of credits students take each semester. Like the traditional Practical Nursing program, this option is competitive and requires a 2-application process. Students initially apply to Ridgewater as pre-nursing students, work on completing their prerequisite courses (semester 1 in the recommended course sequence), and then complete a separate application to the Practical Nursing program (semesters 2-5 in the recommended course sequence).

The Part-Time Practical Nursing program option is competitive and Ridgewater will accept 4 students on each campus (Hutchinson & Willmar) each fall. Students must apply for the program months in advance:

- Fall Program Start: Complete second application during the previous April 1 – June 1 application cycle

The Part-Time PN application is separate from our traditional PN program for students who want to attend full-time. Speak with an advisor to discuss what is best for you.

Steps to Practical Nursing Program:

- Apply to Ridgewater as a Pre-Nursing student at <https://ridgewater.edu/apply>
 - If you have earned credits from other institutions, please request that an official transcript be sent from those institutions to Ridgewater.
- Follow instructions you receive from the Admissions office.
- Meet with an advisor to review degree progress and register for prerequisite courses (semester 1 in the recommended course sequence)
- Apply to Practical Nursing program via the online application. Before students can apply:
 - ENGL 1210, BIOL 1080, PSYC 1310, and HLTH 1130 must be **complete** with minimum “C” grades.
 - Students must attend a virtual Nursing Information Session. Students can RSVP for a session at <https://ridgewater.edu/events/>
 - Students must be active on the MN Nursing Assistant Registry.
- Once accepted to the Practical Nursing program, the following must be completed before a student can start the nursing courses (semesters 2-5 in the recommended course sequence):
 - Return the signed Practical Nursing program contract that is received upon acceptance to the program.
 - Attend Practical Nursing Orientation.
 - Complete all required paperwork provided at orientation.
 - Submit required documentation for clinicals:
 - Proof of vaccinations: MMR, Varicella, Hep B, TDaP, Annual Flu
 - COVID Vaccine Status (Record of vaccination or documentation of no current vaccination)
 - Proof of freedom of Tuberculosis
 - Copy of current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR & AED) Program card/certificate.

Please contact your advisor or nursingadmissions@ridgewater.edu if you have any questions about the program requirements.

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