

Practical Nursing Diploma: Part-Time Option

Hutchinson & Willmar | Fall Start | Part-Time | 41 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PRNU 2400 | Psychosocial Nursing Care^^ | 1 |
| TOTAL CREDITS | | | 7 |

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: 3/2026

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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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