



Practical Nursing (PN) Certificate Program FAQ

1. Is Practical Nursing education new to BTC?
 - No. BTC had an active Practical Nursing program from 1954 until 2014. In 2013 BTC added a Registered Nursing program and stopped entering students into the PN program.
2. Why did the BTC Nursing Program add a PN Certificate program option?
 - The program option is responding to needs expressed by our employer and student stakeholders. Employers in Whatcom county are looking to hire more licensed practical nurses (LPN) and students have requested a part-time education option.
3. How do I know if the PN Certificate pathway is right for me?
 - All students interested in applying to the Nursing Program should meet with the Nursing Student Navigator to discuss which program option is the best fit for them. Appointments can be schedule by calling 360.752.8345.
4. How is the part-time PN Certificate option different from the full-time option?
 - In the part-time option students will complete theory courses one quarter and then the clinical course the next quarter. Students will be in class 2-3 days per week part-time instead of 4-5 days per week in the full-time option.
5. How long will it take to complete the PN Certificate?
 - It will take a student six quarters to complete the certificate and include summer quarter. For example, students starting spring quarter 2020 will complete summer quarter 2021.
6. Will I receive an associate degree once I complete the PN Certificate?
 - No. Students who complete the PN pathway will receive a certificate from BTC and will be eligible to sit for the Practical Nursing licensure exam (NCLEX-PN).
7. Can I transfer from the PN certificate program to the full-time RN program?
 - No. The transfer policy of the BTC Nursing Program does not allow students in the PN certificate to transfer to the 2-year full-time RN program.
8. Will I be able to become a Registered Nurse (RN) if I choose this pathway?
 - Yes, Practical Nursing education can be a piece of the Registered Nursing educational pathway. Students who complete the PN Certificate, get licensed and work 1,000 hours as an LPN, and complete the remaining prerequisite foundational courses may apply to the LPN-RN program option. Once a student who has completed the LPN-RN option they are eligible to become an RN.
9. How do I apply to the PN Certificate Program?
 - Students who are program-ready may apply by submitting the Practical Nursing Certificate Application form. Complete applications will be placed on the waitlist. The application form is located on the BTC website.
10. Is the healthcare experience requirement the same for the PN Certificate as for the RN program?
 - Yes. Applicants must have healthcare experience and submit the Healthcare Experience Verification Form for approval prior to applying. If you already have approved healthcare experience on file with BTC you do not need to resubmit it for the PN Program.

11. Is the admissions process for the PN Certificate different from the process for the RN Program?
 - Yes, the PN Certificate admissions process is a standard waitlist. Students with complete applications will be added to the waitlist and offered a seat in an upcoming cohort when one becomes available.
12. When are applications accepted?
 - Students may email the completed application form as soon as they are program-ready.
13. What quarter can I start the program?
 - PN cohort start dates will be determined by demand and cohorts are generally ten students. No more than two PN cohorts will run at the same time.
14. What qualifies as Healthcare Experience?
 - Nursing Assistant ▪ Paramedic ▪ Radiology Technologist
 - Medical Assistant ▪ Emergency Medical Technician ▪ Surgical Technologist
 - Home Care Aid ▪ Emergency Medical Responder ▪ Healthcare Specialist
 - Other healthcare experience will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
15. Does my healthcare certification have to be active in Washington State?
 - No. If you have held a medical related certification in the past but it is no longer active it will still qualify as medical experience for application to the nursing program as long as no action has been taken against that certification.
16. Do I need to get my Healthcare Experience Verification Form “preapproved” before I submit my application?
 - Yes. You are required to email your form and attached documents to the Nursing Program, nursing@btc.edu. Your Healthcare Verification must be approved prior to applying to the program. Allow ten business days for processing.
17. Do I need to have completed the transcript evaluation process before I submit my application?
 - Yes. Visit the BTC website for details <http://www.btc.edu/FutureStudents/Transfer/indexTransfer.aspx>. Plan ahead as it can take BTC ten business days to evaluate your transcripts and additional time for the sending school to process your request.
18. What is the purpose of the ATI TEAS and why do I have to take it?
 - The ATI TEAS is used as part of the admission process by nursing programs nationwide to measure entry-level skills and abilities of health science program applicants. The purpose of the TEAS is to differentiate among varying levels of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of nursing-related content. The primary difference between standard placement tests and the TEAS is that the TEAS speaks directly to success in nursing-related content while placement testing is not geared to provide those indicators. More information can be found on the TEAS Handout on the BTC website.
19. Do I need the same scores on the ATI TEAS for the PN Certificate as for the RN Program?
 - Yes. You must score at the *Proficient* level or higher on one TEAS transcript.
20. Can I know where I'm at on the program waitlist?
 - We are unable to disclose waitlist information to applicants but we will notify applicants of an upcoming cohort start,

Have more questions.....come to a PN Certificate Info Session!