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740 High Tech Drive / Livingston, TN 38570
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PRACTICAL NURSING HANDBOOK

2026-2027



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Revised 07/2026

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Daily Schedule Classroom

Days: Classroom (Monday-Thursday) 7:30 am until 3:30

Evenings: Classroom (Monday through Friday) 3:30 pm until 9:30 pm

***Clinical Day classes (times may vary)6:30 am until 5:00 pm
Clinical Evening Classes (Times may vary) 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

***Some clinical rotations occur during different hours.**

Students are notified of times and dates in advance of these rotations.

The Nursing building is shared with Dual Enrolled Students from the local High Schools in the Upper Cumberland at each location in Crossville, Livingston and Pikeville.

THIS HANDBOOK IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Dear Practical Nursing Student,

Welcome to Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Upper Cumberland. Entering the Practical Nursing program indicates a commitment on your part to enhance your future. Our goal, as faculty, will be to help you achieve this objective.

During the three semesters of this program, you will find that meeting the scholastic requirements and clinical practicum will require a large amount of time and attention as you will be focusing on the didactic portion of the program. We advise against any student trying to work a night shift and must report to school at scheduled hours that range from 0630 (clinical) and 0745 (school) for day classes and 1530 for evening classes. Most students find it difficult to stay awake and recall material from lectures after having worked all day/night.

Our class schedule is designed to meet curriculum requirements established by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Missing any portion of class for absences will mean you miss valuable information which you could be tested over on your state board exam. During your tenure with our school, do your absolute best to avoid absences. Excessive absenteeism may interfere with the successful completion of this 1296-hour program.

This Practical Nursing Handbook supersedes the school handbook and provides specific information regarding program requirements, policies and procedures for students enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program. ***It is the responsibility of each student to become thoroughly familiar with all guidelines contained in the handbook.***

We look forward to our time with you and will actively seek to ensure your success in the Program. If we can assist you in any way, please feel free to ask.

Sincerely,

PN Faculty

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INTRODUCTION

The TCAT Upper Cumberland Practical Nursing Program Handbook contains Policies and Procedures to assist students in the Practical Nursing Program. Since entrance into TCAT-Upper Cumberland is completely voluntary, it is inherent that upon entrance into the school the student accepts certain responsibilities and obligations. These responsibilities include such things as academic/clinical performance and social behavior consistent with the philosophy of the Department. These standards of behavior and performance may be higher than is required by law or the public; however, each student must adhere to the standards and policies required. A form is signed by students indicating receipt and understanding of the Student Handbook.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

- To prepare qualified men and women for the vocation of practical nursing as active members of the health team concerned with the care of the sick and their rehabilitation, the prevention of illness, and the promotion of wellness.
- To provide educational opportunities to assist the learner to acquire knowledge, gain understanding and develop skills essential to render safe, effective bedside nursing care, while enabling the learner to become progressively self-directed and self-disciplined.
- To prepare a person to assume his/her role as a licensed practical nurse and to function under the guidelines defined in the Nurse Practice Act regardless of age, sex, religion, color, race, national origin, or handicap, sexual preference, or veteran status.
- To provide area hospitals and other health care facilities with qualified individuals to meet a definite nursing need.

DEFINITION OF PRACTICAL NURSING

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-103.

Practical Nursing is defined by the Nurse Practice Act of 1967 (Tennessee Senate Bill 375) as follows:

“The practice of practical nursing means the performance for compensation of selected acts required in the nursing care of the ill, injured or infirm, and/or carrying out medical orders prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist under the direction of a licensed physician, dentist, or professional registered nurse. The licensed practical nurse shall have preparation in and understanding of practical nursing but shall not be required to have the same degree of education and preparation as required of a registered nurse.”

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRACTICAL NURSES

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-109.

“An application for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall submit to the board evidence in such form as the board may prescribe that the applicant:

- (1) Is in good physical and mental health; and
- (2) Has completed the twelfth grade or its equivalent or has successfully passed the test for and has received a general equivalency diploma and such other preliminary qualifications and requirements as the board may describe; and
- (3) Has successfully completed a course of study in an approved school for practical nurse, as defined by the board, and the applicant holds a certificate therefrom, or the approved school has certified to the board that the applicant has met all requirements for a certificate.”

MISSION OF THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

The mission of the Practical Nursing program is to provide quality education in a positive learning environment which allows the student to acquire the basic skills needed to obtain licensure as a Practical Nurse and gain employment in the field.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Upper Cumberland serves as the premier supplier of workforce development throughout the State of Tennessee. The college fulfill their mission by:

- Providing competency-based training through superior quality, traditional and distance learning instruction that qualify completers for employment and job advancement.
- Contributing to the economic and community development of the communities served by training and retraining employed workers.
- Ensuring that programs and services are economical and accessible to all residents of Tennessee.
- Building relationships of trust with community, business, and industry leaders to supply highly skilled workers in areas of need.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

We the faculty believe that:

- Each human being is unique and worthy of dignity.
- Education is a continuous process of developing individuals to their fullest potential based on their individual physical and mental abilities.
- Education must stay abreast of society's changing demands to benefit the individual and society.
- Technical education prepares individuals for gainful employment regardless of sex, race, creed, handicap and/or socio-economic status.
- Technical school is an appropriate setting for preparing individuals for licensure at the beginning level of nursing practice.

- Nursing is a profession of serving others and constitutes a service in which nursing problems are identified and a course of action is planned, implemented, and evaluated in accordance with each patient's physical, spiritual, emotional, and social needs.
- Nursing education builds on a foundation of basic education, teaches an art and science which recognizes the need for practitioners prepared to function effectively in a changing health care delivery system.
- Nursing education should allow for upward and/or horizontal mobility in the achievement of short term and long-range goals.
- Practical nursing is an integral part of all nursing and that the practical nurse, as a contributing member of the health care team, practices within a legally defined role.
- Practical nursing education encompasses theoretical principles, supervised clinical experiences, and attitude awareness concepts to facilitate personal and vocational development.
- Learning is facilitated through motivation, guidance, and an environment that is conducive to student involvement and responsibility for achievement of an educational goal.
- The curriculum should be reviewed and evaluated periodically to reflect current concepts and practices within the standards of the nursing profession.

PUBLIC LAW 93-380 PRIVACY RIGHTS ACT

Tennessee College of Applied Technology adheres to the guidelines developed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare regarding the privacy rights of parents and students. Access to official records is provided to students and parents of dependent students as it relates to them, but limits dissemination of personal identifiable information without the student's consent.

POLICY ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Each Tennessee College of Applied Technology is dedicated to the ideals, principles, and policies of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Each offers equal opportunity for admission into the educational programs and employment to all qualified person without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age so long as the student has an employment objective and can benefit from the instruction.



OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

Upon completion of these courses, the graduates will be able to:

- Safely perform therapeutic and preventive nursing interventions incorporating scientific and social foundations basic to practical nursing
- Utilize the nursing process in participating in the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of nursing care.
- Understand the concepts of health and demonstrate knowledge of measures necessary to attain and maintain health.
- Demonstrate respect for the dignity of individuals.
- Contribute to the identification of the physical, emotional, and cultural needs of the consumer.
- Apply communication techniques to establish effective interpersonal relationships.
- Recognize the licensed practical nurse's role within the profession of nursing and the healthcare delivery system.
- Seek out learning opportunities and assume responsibility for continuing education and professional growth.
- Obtain the basic skills needed to obtain licensure as a Practical Nurse and gain employment in the field, thereby contributing to the economic and community development of the community we serve.

These objectives are further broken down into specific areas of instruction. Students are provided a list of objectives for each unit within each instructional course. These objectives are evaluated and updated annually by faculty members. The Advisory Board is also asked to review course objectives periodically. The current needs of the job market are identified through input from Advisory Board Members, follow-up, and literature.



Standards of Professional Conduct in Nursing

Standards for Student Conduct

The nursing faculty believes that standards of professional conduct are an inherent part of the profession of nursing and expect students enrolled in the Practical nursing program to adhere to the standards. Practical nursing students practice within the boundaries of the Tennessee State Board Nurse Practice Act, the nursing code of ethics and standards of practice, the PN program's health education guidelines and the Tennessee Board of Regents rules and regulations.

The use of abusive language or disruptive behavior directed toward peers, staff, faculty, or hospital personnel will not be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the program. Such behavior is inconsistent with professional standards and inappropriate for students aspiring to a career in nursing. The Director and/or instructor will document any inappropriate, erratic, or unprofessional behavior. The faculty will counsel and plan corrective actions, if indicated.

Standards of Professional Conduct Include:

- **Confidentiality:** Respects the privacy of patients and respects privileged information.
- **Accountability:** Is answerable for one's action; answers to self, the patient, the profession, and the institution.
- **Responsibility:** Executes duties associated with the nurse's particular role.
- **Agency's Policies and Procedures:** Reads and adheres to the agency policies and procedures.
- **Honesty:** Practices fairness and straight forwardness of conduct, displays moral excellence and truthfulness.
- **Punctuality and Promptness:** Is on time for all classroom and clinical assignments.
- **Dependability:** is trustworthy and reliable.
- **Respect:** Treats others with consideration and courtesy.
- **Professional Appearance:** Adheres to the established dress code in all clinical and professional activities.
- **Ethical:** Adheres to the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (200) establishing the ethical standard for the nursing profession. The document is under copyright and can be viewed at <http://www.nursingworld.org/ethics/ecode.htm>
- **Legal:** Operates within the standards of care related to the student practical nurse role.
- **Safety:** Prevents or minimizes risks for physical, psychological, or emotional jeopardy, injury, or damage.
- **Civility:** All students in the nursing program are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment. As a nursing student, you are expected to be reflective, courteous, respectful, and empathetic to classmates, instructors, and to other TCAT staff assisting you succeed in this program.



ADMISSION TO PROGRAM

Admission to TCAT Upper Cumberland Practical Nursing Program is open to all applicants who **are 17 years of age and will turn 18 prior to clinicals starting during the second trimester and older who** have met the following criteria for enrollment:

- Successful passage of the Hesi™ Entrance Exam or meets minimum ACT requirement for admission.
 - HESI™, **score of 70% in reading and math** or **ACT scores of 19 in reading and math** (taken within 2 years) Student is responsible for HESI fee.
- Completed and returned the application packet.
 - Application form
 - Evidence of high school graduation or GED equivalency
 - Physical Form (applicant section)
 - MMR, Hepatitis B, TB, & Varicella (Chicken Pox) Proof of immunization or immunity
 - FASFA confirmation sheet attached (unless planning on paying cash on first day)
 - Program space availability.
 - Participate in a Pre-orientation session.

Once accepted into the PN program all candidates must:

- Complete a physical examination by licensed physician or other health professional qualified in the physical examination process, this examination must have occurred within one year of the enrollment date. The completed form along with **proof of immunization status must be returned to the school prior to the first day of class.**
- Can safely perform all the duties necessary to the training program without limitations or dangerto themselves, their personal health or that of the public for which they may be responsible.
- **Must provide a valid BLS Healthcare Provider CPR card from the American Heart Association**
- **Completion of a criminal background screening with urine drug screening as required by affiliating clinical practice sites.**
- Provide proof of health insurance or and a valid driver's license

Applicants not accepted will remain on the waiting list provided Hesi™/ACT scores are current. ACT scores are admissible for 20 years or younger). It is the applicants' responsibility to update packets with new scores, otherwise they will be removed from the waiting list and information shredded.

The Practical Nursing Program is dedicated to the ideals, principles, and policies of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Practical Nursing program offers equal opportunity for admission into the program to all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age, so long as the student has an employment objective, can meet the stated enrollment qualifications, and can benefit from the instruction period.

In consideration of the physically handicapped person, entranceways and sidewalk elevations, classrooms, and restrooms have been adapted to provide easy access to the building. **The Tennessee State Board of Nursing (TBON) reserves the right to deny licensure to anyone**

convicted of a crime. They evaluate whether to license applicants on an individual basis. They will deny licensure for certain crimes committed within the last five (5) years without question.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

To be considered for transfer into the practical nursing a student may transfer from any Tennessee Board of Nursing approved practical nursing program or registered nursing program, college, or university, at which he/she has been actively enrolled within the **past twelve (12) months and has successfully completed basic nursing courses.** Students *suspended from other Tennessee College of Applied Technology nursing schools* **may be ineligible** for admission to the Practical Nursing Program for a minimum of 6 months or longer subject to the discretion of the Administrative Staff at TCAT Upper Cumberland program, the potential student must make an appointment to meet with the Health Education Department Coordinator.

At this meeting the following must be provided:

- Completion of TCAT Upper Cumberland application for the practical nursing program
- High School transcript or GED (45 minimum score)
- Required Entrance Test - This test will be available on campus if not already taken. The entrance test will be given only once for each transfer student. If failure results, the student can arrange to repeat the test when Entrance exams are routinely scheduled for nursing students.
- College or Technology school transcripts along with course descriptions
- One (1) professional contact, upon request
- Recent physical examination and immunization proof (within 1 month)

After the above criteria, have been met and the student is eligible to enroll into the current class, the student must demonstrate an **80% competency level** for each practical nursing course in the form of comprehensive, objective, challenge examinations for all courses transferred.

Policy on Withdrawal and Readmission to Practical Nursing Program

- Any student who **withdraws*** from the program, but wishes to re-enter must request an appointment with the Director of Nursing to discuss the possibility of re-entering
 - * **Withdrawal** - Exiting the program for any reason: **personal, academic failure, attendance, medical, etc.** Students with other disciplinary infractions e.g. clinical "at risk behaviors (see page 35) may no longer meet admission criteria.
 - If unsuccessful in any course students may remain in school until completion of the trimester with the understanding that they will have to repeat the current trimester and complete all trimester courses.
 - **If a student fails two courses during their enrollment period of 1296 hours, they must wait at least 12 months before re-applying to repeat the entire program.**
 - Students may have to be readmitted to the beginning of the nursing trimester (first Trimester).
 - Each student's situation will be evaluated based on documented criteria such as grades, progress evaluation report, attendance, etc.
 - **Readmission for any reason to the PN program is based upon space availability.**
- Academic Retention and Readmission at TCAT Upper Cumberland 2:03:01:05**



Student Progress

- A. Evaluations of student achievement toward program identified occupational competencies (in this case Practical Nursing) are recorded for each student at the end of 432 hours of instruction that comprise a term. Those evaluations shall be based on the following scale of progress (Allied Health Science Programs, e.g. Practical Nursing, require a “B” (80 percent) or better average per term):
 - 1. A = 90-100
 - 2. B = 80-89
- B. Grades for courses will be determined as described in course syllabi. Students will be graded in the following categories:
 - 1. Clinical/Skill Proficiency
 - 2. Theory/Related Information
- C. Students must achieve a “B” (80 percent) or better average per course.
- D. **Failure to maintain the required grade average will result in an unsatisfactory evaluation and will prevent the student from progressing in the program.**
- E. Additional retention of standards for specific programs may be established by the college based upon accreditation or licensing requirements applicable to the program.
- F. **The student must maintain an overall GPA is 80 % for the trimester.**

Readmission from Suspension for Grades or Attendance

- A. The president may consider for readmission the application the applicant who has been suspended.
- B. Criteria that the president will consider in assessing candidacy for readmission are as follows:
 - 1. Assessment of the candidate’s willing to address those deficiencies that contributed to the prior suspension, and
 - 2. Assessment of the likelihood that the readmitted student may succeed in pursuing their training objective.
- C. **Third Trimester-** Any student who withdraws during the **THIRD TRIMESTER** may have several options to complete the program. **These options are available only if:**
 - 1. **The student has an overall GPA is 80%** for the trimester.
 - 2. The student has no record of unsatisfactory performance/disciplinary evaluations.
 - 3. There is available space for placement into the class.
- D. If a student has not enrolled within 4 months the student will be required to re-test **all course finals**, to prove competency. If unsuccessful in testing, they must repeat the previous trimester courses.

The Tennessee Board of Nursing determines required clinical practice hours (430 hours). Missing excess hours may require the student to complete those hours prior to issuing a diploma and a state board of nursing application.

Course #	TCAT – Upper Cumberland PN Curriculum Outline/Course Sequence <i>For information on curriculum content, minimum instruction, and clinical experience, see Administrative Rules of the Tennessee Board of Nursing 1000-02.-09</i>	Hours	Trimester
LPN 0001	Worker Characteristics	6	1
LPN 1010	Basic Nursing Principles	90	1
LPN 1020	Fundamentals of Nursing	124	1
LPN 1030	Administration of Medications and Basic IV Theory	80	1
LPN 1040	Anatomy and Physiology	96	1
LPN 1050	Clinical I	36	1
LPN 0002	Worker Characteristics	6	2
LPN 2010	Pharmacology I	51	2
LPN 2020	Mental Health	60	2
LPN 2030	Medical & Surgical Nursing I	75	2
LPN 2040	Maternity Health	60	2
LPN 2050	Clinical II	180	2
LPN 0003	Worker Characteristics	6	3
LPN 3010	Clinical III	225	3
LPN 3020	Advanced Professional Vocational Relations	24	3
LPN 3030	Pediatric Nursing	60	3
LPN 3040	Pharmacology II	42	3
LPN 3050	Medical & Surgical Nursing II	75	3
	Total Theoretical / Lab Hours	855	
	Total Hours - Clinical / Skills Lab	441	1 / 2 / 3
	Total PN Course Hours	1296	



PRACTICAL NURSING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1010 - Basic Nursing Principles:

Vocational Relations: This course is concerned with individual integrity as a basis for adequate functioning as a practical nurse. Information throughout the course includes study skills for the adult learner, nursing history, role and responsibility of the practical nurse, law and ethics, communication, current nursing trends, employability skills, work characteristics and orientation process.

Geriatrics: This class introduces gerontological nursing and the leadership role of the practical nurse caring for older adults in long term care environments. The normal aging is explored with emphasis on promoting, maintaining, and restoring health in older adults. Besides the sociological, psychological, and physiological aspects of aging, this unit will also incorporate the financial, safety, and pharmacological aspects of aging. The curriculum, using the nursing process and basic human needs as a framework will integrate cultural diversity, legal/ethical considerations, and the communication process to provide holistic care to the geriatric client. Clinical experience will be afforded the student to allow them to use observational, assessment and communication skills with the geriatric client.

Nutrition: Nutrition provides the practical student nurse with information related to the fundamental principles of normal nutrition. Included in this course is a study of the basic nutrients, food preparation and planning, alternate routes of nutrition, economic factors related to essential nutrition and legislations pertaining to safe nutrition for the consumer. Nutritional consideration of various age groups and different cultural backgrounds are also discussed. The study of nutrition in relationship to disease will be addressed more fully in Medical-Surgical Nursing.

1020 - Fundamentals of Nursing (includes Medical Terminology): Nursing Fundamentals is concerned with the individual, the family, and community health. The course is the foundation for all succeeding nursing courses. Application of skills and principles in caring for a wide variety of patients will be stressed with emphasis of the comfort, safety, maintenance of health, and recovery of the client. This course is directly related to A & P in helping the student distinguish between the normal and the abnormal. Nursing Fundamentals is essential in order that the student recognizes that nursing is a social discipline as well as stress the importance of the practical nurse as a member of the healthcare team. A planned schedule of laboratory experience in simulated patient situations and hospital environment is provided for the student to practice and demonstrate their skills before exposure to the actual clinical setting.

Medical Terminology: This course is designed for students to enable them to acquire an understanding of medical terminology. It provides the basic techniques of medical word building. Once these techniques are learned they can readily be applied to acquire an extensive medical vocabulary. There is no previous knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology or Pathology necessary. The final course grade counts as a unit grade in Fundamentals of Nursing.

1030 – Administer of Medication and Basic IV Theory: After completion of the math portion of this course, the student will be able to perform accurate calculations of drugs and solutions. The curriculum will stress how mathematics is important to the preparation and administration of medications. Math problems will progress from simple to more complex. A pre-requisite of the ability to do basic arithmetic is needed. This includes the ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, as well as a review of fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, and proportions. Other topics include nursing skills relative to the safe administration of medications. Clinical laboratory experience, prior to administration in clinical practice is offered for parenteral medications.

IV Therapy - The purpose of this course is to present the Practical Nurse the concepts necessary to perform basic intravenous therapy, under the supervision of the RN/MD in a health care facility. This includes peripheral venipuncture, and the administration of intravenous fluids and medications by the guidelines set forth by the Tennessee State Board of Nursing. Topics included in this course include: the role of the LPN in IV Therapy; venous system anatomy; legal and professional issues related to IV Therapy; complications and nursing interventions for prevention; knowledge of IV Therapy equipment, calculation of IV dosages and rates; and actions, usual dosages, side effects, and other pertinent interventions regarding IV Therapy. Clinical laboratory experience prior to IV administration to patients in their clinical practicum will be required. **Theory 30 hours; clinical practicum 10 hours**

1040 - Anatomy & Physiology: This course is designed to familiarize the student with the structure and function of the human body as well as the interrelationships and interdependency of the body systems to the maintenance of a homeostatic condition. The basic mechanisms of chemistry as well as the effects of microbes on the human body will be included.

2010: Pharmacology I / Drug Classifications: The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic knowledge in the science of pharmacology. Topics included in this course include: the nursing process and its application to medication administration, and pharmacokinetics. The students will also become familiar with drug classifications and the commonly given medications that fall within these classifications (as well as their intended actions, side effects, and pertinent nursing interventions in their administration) and focus on administration of medications to pediatric and geriatric patients is also covered. Emphasis is also placed upon the practical nurses legal and ethical responsibilities in the administration of medications.

2020 – Mental Health: This course is designed to give the student basic knowledge of normal and abnormal behavior modes. Included in this course will be discussions concerning basic human needs, emotions, normal personality development, communication process, and personality structure. Exaggerated mental mechanisms, anxiety states and drug and alcohol will also be discussed, with emphasis placed upon understanding the behavior of the patient and attempting to return the patient to society while understanding the behavior of the patient and attempting to return the patient to society while recognizing his limitations. Approaches, methods of treatment including drug therapy will be explored. A portion of this course focuses specifically on the needs of the elderly population. Clinical rotations will include practical experience in a mental health facility to provide the student time to apply theory and principles in the care of the mentally ill.

2030 - Medical & Surgical Nursing I: This course will provide the student with knowledge of disease conditions affecting the adult patient. This course covers the basic pathology, signs and symptoms, incidence, diagnosis, treatment, and nursing interventions for selected disease conditions. Clinical nutrition and clinical pharmacology are integrated into each unit. Special emphasis is placed on the needs of the aging population. Clinical experience will be afforded the student to help the student associate and apply theory and principles. These experiences will progress from simple to complex.

2040 - Maternity Health: This course is designed to give the student a view of the patient as a family member with emphasis placed on pregnancy as a normal state. The material will be presented in chronological order from conception to birth. Abnormal conditions of pregnancy, their pathology, signs and symptoms, incidence, prognosis, and treatment, and nursing interventions will be presented. Correlated with this course will be clinical pharmacology and clinical nutrition. Clinical rotation will include practical experience in labor and delivery, post-partum, and newborn nursery to provide the student the ability to apply theory and principles in the care of the obstetrical patient and newborn.

3020 - Advanced Professional Vocational Relations: This course includes the characteristics necessary for a successful transition from student to LPN. The course is designed to assist the student in employability skills including completing job applications, preparing for the job interview, and writing a resume. The course also focuses on leadership skills, positive work habits, attitudes, and worker characteristics.

3030 - Pediatric Nursing: This course is designed to provide basic information to the practical nursing student about the physiological differences and developmental stages in children. It also encompasses the various pathological conditions and disorders of childhood and respective treatments. Knowledge of the various states of growth and development from infancy to adolescence is important for proper nursing care of the pediatric patient. A holistic approach is utilized by encompassing family-centered care, along with psychosocial and physical well-being, like that of the adult medical-surgical patient. Pediatric clinical experience will be included for each student during their clinical rotations.

3040 – Pharmacology II The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic knowledge of the science of pharmacology. Topics included in this course include: the nursing process and its application to medication administration, and pharmacokinetics. The students will also become familiar with drug classifications and the commonly given medications that fall within these classifications (as well as their intended actions, side effects, and pertinent nursing interventions in their administration) and focus on administration of medications to pediatric and geriatric patients is also covered. Emphasis is also placed upon the practical nurses legal and ethical responsibilities in the administration of medications.

3050 – Medical & Surgical Nursing II This course will provide the student with knowledge of disease conditions affecting the adult patient. This course covers the basic pathology, signs and symptoms, incidence, diagnosis, treatment, and nursing interventions for selected disease conditions. Clinical nutrition and clinical pharmacology are integrated into each unit. Special emphasis is placed on the needs of the aging population. Clinical experience will be afforded the student to help the student associate and apply theory and principles. These experiences will progress from simple to complex.

NCLEX Prep This course focuses on preparing the student to take the National PN Exam. Students will test, as well as remediate, using a 24-hour access web-based company and critical thinking techniques in the classroom and lab. Included in this course is a State Board Review.

1050, 2050, 3010 – Clinical Practicum: Clinical rotations will include practical experience in a variety of settings including but not limited to: medical surgical nursing, maternal/newborn care, pediatrics, and mental health. This experience allows the student to incorporate theory and principles in the clinical setting.

0001.0002.0003 – Worker Characteristics: Students will receive a grade in Worker Characteristics each trimester. The goal of this course is to improve the essential worker characteristics of students in preparation for entrance into the workshop upon completion of the program. The course is based around the ten traits that have been identified as being needed to foster positive work habits. These include:

1. Attendance
2. Character
3. Teamwork
4. Appearance
5. Attitude
6. Productivity
7. Organizational Skills
8. Communications
9. Cooperation
10. Respect

GENERAL INFORMATION: CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & EVALUATION

Curriculum Organization: The faculty of the TCAT Upper Cumberland PN Program work collectively when planning course structure. The instructor scheduled to teach a course is primarily responsible for organizing, implementing, and evaluating the course. Development of the curriculum is also a joint effort of the Health Education Coordinator and instructors in accordance with the philosophy of TCAT, the Tennessee Board of Nursing, Tennessee Board of Regents, and COE accreditation standards.

Curriculum Instruction: Methods: lectures, discussion, demonstrations, audiovisuals, handouts, study guides, reading assignments, written assignments, field trips, seminars/workshops, computer software applications, simulated scenarios, online research.

Clinical: Students will be assigned to patients by the instructor and be directly responsible for keeping the nursing staff informed concerning the patient's condition. Clinical learning experiences will be assigned based on course content previously learned and individual needs of the student.

Curriculum Evaluation: Objective tests, oral quizzing, written assignments, return demonstrations, computer testing & clinical simulation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students are expected to participate in available health related in-service education programs and engage in community health promotion and volunteer activities. Instructors will recommend activities as they become available. All students are expected to participate and show proof of a minimum of 2 activities before the end of the year.



National Technical Honor's Society (NTHS)

NTHS mission is to recognize student achievement and leadership in career and technical education, promote excellence, award scholarships, and enhance student career opportunities. Its core attributes for membership include leadership, scholarship, skills, honesty, citizenship, service, and responsibility. NTHS helps its members to seek education, provide leadership skills, build career portfolios, connect with members of their professions, and engage in community service.

Student membership occurs with the recommendation for application by the program instructors. At the end of each trimester (there are three trimesters in this course of study) your instructor will make recommendations for the NTHS. These recommendations are guided by the NTHS –TCAT Upper Cumberland standards and must be maintained throughout the program (each semester) to retain NTHS membership.



TCAT PN SAFETY CHECKLIST

1. In emergencies, the student exits from the classroom using identified routes of exit.
 - a. If exiting in response to alarm or disaster leave all personal items
2. First Aid kit (location)
3. Body fluids/blood spill information (kits are in instructor's office)
4. Fire extinguisher location and use.
5. Fire alarm sound and student response.
6. Tornado Warning
 - a. Tornado alarm sound.
 - b. Exit to designated shelter/area taking no personal belongings.
 - c. Shelter in women's bathrooms (TCAT Upper Cumberland/TCAT- Upper Cumberland - Livingston) CHEC – PN classroom.
 - d. Students may exit with the "all clear" signal.
7. Lock-Down Drill /Alarm
 - a. Lock-Down drills are a means of practicing preparedness in schools/businesses in the event of an intruder or criminal act or terroristic attack.
 - b. An announcement will be given that the school is going on an immediate lockdown.
 - c. All occupants present at the time of the drill go to a designated room and lock all doors and windows tightly.
 - d. Lock down is enforced until an "all clear" signal is issued.



ATTENDANCE

When a full-time student enrolls for a full term (432 hours) and has absences exceeding 9.7% (**42 hours**) of the scheduled hours enrolled, that student will be suspended (Academic retention and readmission at Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology: 2:03:01:05).

Definition to a tardy:

- A student is considered tardy if not in the classroom at the designated time for class to start at any time during the day – start, breaks, and lunch
- Coming into class late **at any time**.

Multiple episodes of being tardy will result in the following discipline (see clinical attendance for its specific policy):

1. **Five (5) Tardies** – Student will be given a written warning by the instructor.
2. **Six (6) Tardies** – Student will be placed on probation by Student Services.
3. **Seven (7) Tardies** – Student will be referred to the president and will be **terminated by the president of the college or the president's designee**.

*When a student misses three (3) consecutive days without contacting the college, that student will be presumed to have withdrawn from the College. (Academic retention and readmission at Tennessee College of Applied Technology: 2:03:01:05).

- Notification of absence/tardy, must be made in accordance with the following rules:
 - Notification of classroom absence must be reported by 0845, if not this will result in a one-point deduction per occurrence in worker characteristics final grade.
 - **Clinical/Class absence must be phoned in 30 minutes prior to scheduled assignment start time** (call the facility and instructor) and leave a message at the school- **Repeated incidences of no call no show will result in disciplinary measures for class/clinicals. Failing to call in clinical/class absence according to this policy will result in a zero (0) clinical grade for the day, and possible disciplinary measures.**
 - **When a student misses three (3) consecutive days without contacting the college, that student may be presumed to have withdrawn from the college.**

Additionally, leaving class or clinicals early will be recorded and multiple episodes of being tardy will result in the following discipline:

1. **Five (5) Leave Earlies** – Student will be given a written warning by the instructor.
2. **Six (6) Leave Earlies** – Student will be placed on probation by Student Services.
3. **Seven (7) Leave Earlies** – Student will be referred to the president and will be **terminated by the president of the college or the president's designee**.

- It is best to leave a message or speak with a Health Education instructor when calling in your absence or email your instructor directly.



STUDENT PERSONAL / CLASSROOM / CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The following violations may result in disciplinary action, or course grade reduction

- Failing to complete assignments as instructed (includes classroom and clinical assignments, etc.)
- Disruptive Behaviors
 - Disruptive during class (sleeping, or excessively exiting classroom before scheduled break times, noise interruptions, authorized computer use, cell phone use) will result in disciplinary action.
- Violation of other TCAT Policies/Administrative/ Student Services / Financial Aid Request/ etc.
- **Patient privacy, confidentiality**
 - Violation of HIPAA
 - Violation of Privacy
- Unprofessional behavior and misconduct in clinical practice.
- Cellphone, smart watch, electronic devices
 - **Use of cell phones/or other electronic devices is strictly prohibited in the classroom or during clinical practicum (lecture, testing), unless permission is granted by the instructor.**
 - **Classroom** – a warning will be documented with the first infraction. With subsequent cell phone violations, the student will be suspended for one day.
 - **Clinical** –Personal use of cell phone while in clinical assignment will result in suspension for the first offense; referral to the director and/or president for any further violations and may result in expulsion of the program.

Professional Etiquette:

- **Appearance** (inappropriate dress, grooming, and hygiene for assigned areas)
- **Behavior** (not maintaining positive, respectful attitude, handling criticism/conflicts appropriately or repeatedly displaying disruptive, immature behavior)
- **Repeatedly showing a lack of initiative and self-motivation**
- **Communication** (not using appropriate verbal/nonverbal skills, disturbing others with excessive talking or using foul/offensive language)

Students face immediate removal from class/clinical and disciplinary action for insubordinate, belligerent, or grossly inappropriate behavior.

Students will be called in for counseling as needed to warn about behaviors and attendance issues.

Students will initial on the form as evidence of counseling.



Student Name _____ Student # _____ Term _____ 20 _____

Program _____ Enrollment Date _____ Graduation Date _____

Previous Hours _____ Current Hours _____ Cumulative Hours _____

Grading Scale: CONT = Not Complete, A = 100 – 90, B = 89 – 80, C = 79 – 70, D = 69 – 60, F = Below 60

Grading Scale Allied Health and TDP: CONT = Not Complete, A = 100 – 90, B = 89 – 80, F = Below 80

Progress

Course	Skill Grade	Theory Grade	Course Grade	Course Hours	Last Date of Attendance

_____ Trimester Average

Student Signature _____ Date _____ Instructor Signature _____ Date _____
Final Trimester Evaluation

TCAT – Upper Cumberland is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age (as applicable), status as a covered veteran, genetic information, and any other category protected by federal or state civil rights law with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by the College. Inquiries or complaints concerning Title IX and/or the Title IX regulations may be referred to the College's Title IX coordinator 24/7 in person, by phone, and/or email at: Jeffrey Slagle Title IX Coordinator, TitleIX@tcatuppercumberland.edu 740 Hi Tech Dr Livingston, TN 38570 (931) 823-5525.



Hours registered are _____ Absent hours 9.7% _____ Counseled hours 5.5% _____

Absent policy – When the student exceeds 5.5% absent hrs., the student reports to student services.

When the student exceeds 9.7% absent hrs., the student reports to an administration.

Tardy policy – If Student receives 5, warning from the instructor; 6, contact student services; 7, referred to an administration

ATTENDANCE

SUMMARY OF ABSENCES						
Date	Reason for Absence	Time Lost			Cumulative Time Lost	Student's Initials
		Tardy	Left Early	Other		

ACTION TAKEN						
Date	Warning	Probation	Referred for Counseling	Suspended	Student's Initials	Instructor or Admin. Initials

Student Signature _____ Date _____ Inst./Admin. Signature _____ Date _____
Counseling

Student Signature _____ Date _____ Inst./Admin. Signature _____ Date _____
Counseling

Remarks:



ATTENDANCE

Students at TCAT Upper Cumberland are expected to maintain satisfactory attendance and to progress in an appropriate manner toward their training objectives. The nature of the programs at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology is such that it is necessary for every student to attend regularly. Excessive interruptions due to absences will have an adverse effect on student progress.

1. A full-time student enrolled for a full term (72-days) and that has been absent for more than 5.5% (24 hours) of the scheduled hours enrolled will receive written communication alerting the student to the number of hours remaining prior to suspension. Available community and institutional resources will be shared to assist students with attendance issues. The number of hours of absence triggering notification must be prorated for all part-time students and full-time students enrolled for less than a full term.
2. **When a full-time student enrolls for a full term (72) days) and has absences exceeding 9.7% (42 hours) of the scheduled hours enrolled, that student will be suspended.** A student suspended for attendance may appeal the suspension in writing to the president within three (3) days of receiving notification of the suspension. A student appealing suspension of attendance may remain in class until the suspension has been reviewed. The number of hours triggering suspension must be prorated for all-part-time and full-time students enrolled for less than a full term.
3. A student is considered tardy if not in the classroom at the designated time for class to start **(including breaks and lunch)**. Multiple tardies will result in the following discipline:
 - a. Five (5) tardies – Student will be given a written warning and counseled by instructor.
 - b. Six (6) tardies- Student will be placed on probation by the president or the president's designee.
 - c. Seven (7) tardies – Student will be referred to the president and will be terminated.
4. An attendance record for each student shall be maintained in the student information system.
5. When a student misses three (3) consecutive days without contacting the college, that student will be presumed to have withdrawn from the college.

Any student who leaves before the end of the school day should first sign out with their instructor. Students who fail to sign out may be dismissed from the program. Hours from signing out will be counted as absence hours and this will be reflected on the Worker Characteristic Grade.

PN Faculty can require additional coursework for absenteeism. Failure to turn in by due date will be reflected on student worker characteristic grade



CLINICAL ATTENDANCE /GRADE POLICY –

Clinical experience is a major part of the TCAT Upper Cumberland PN Curriculum. Without adequate clinical training success in the program is not likely. Nurses must be able to relate theory and clinical to be successful on the NCLEX Exam. The faculty expect the student to be responsible and avoid absenteeism during clinical. If excessive clinical absenteeism exists, the faculty may require additional assignments. Clinical hours missed will be reflected in job references as well as period evaluations.

- **Clinical practice Grade Policy** – Clinical attendance is essential for each student to practice skills and provide appropriate care for patients/clients/residents. Missing clinical practice hours, as stated above, may prevent the student from receiving their diploma or becoming eligible for licensure by the State Boards of Nursing. Students will receive a weekly clinical evaluation grade. Rubrics will be supplied by the instructor. **Any clinical absence will result in a zero (0) for that clinical day.** Leaving early or being tardy will also result in an unsatisfactory clinical evaluation, depending upon the circumstances. For further explanation please see Clinical I-III syllabi.
- Notice of **clinical absence** must be reported **“prior to”** the scheduled starting time and date, usually 0700. If a student is in a rotation where an instructor is not present, **the student must also call the facility to report the absence.**
- **Clinical Attendance Forms must be completed (front and back) and signed by staff/faculty at the clinical facility. These forms must be turned into the instructor at the beginning of the next class or at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to provide Clinical Attendance Forms will result in 0 hours for the clinical day. Late clinical forms will result in a 25-point deduction at the discretion of the instructor.**
- **If you cannot make it to the assigned clinical site within 30 minutes of start time,** you will be given an absence for the day (facilities expect that we are taking care of the patients assigned at start of the shift). In the event of adverse weather or extenuating circumstances, PN Instructors may make exceptions to the 30-minute policy above.
- A student is considered tardy if not in the clinical area (reporting to instructor) ready to work at the designated time including returning from break and lunch.
- As clinical practice hours are determined by State Boards of Nursing (BON), delays in licensure application may occur until those requirements are met.

CLASSROOM DRESS / HYGIENE

- Healthcare professionals are expected to be neat and clean always. This includes personal hygiene, offensive odors, soiled shoes, clothing, and personal belongings.
- Student identification badges must always be worn while on campus and in clinical sites.
- Neat, Clean scrub uniforms will be worn in the classroom setting. In class, the student may wear pattern or color of their choice, excluding obscene or offensive content. Students may also wear a sweatshirt (appropriate for class) of TCAT T-shirt and scrub bottoms.
- Undergarments / gluteal cleft should not be visible at any time (this includes pants with holes). Attire should fit appropriately and not form fitting.

Seminar / In-service Dress Code:

- Scheduled in-services are mandatory for students.
- The costs for attending educational seminars are each student's responsibility.
- The dress must be appropriate to the professional atmosphere.
- No facial piercings, tattoos must be covered.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE

Nursing Students must purchase uniforms and supplies which meet TCAT-Upper Cumberland guidelines. **Each student will be personally responsible for payment of uniforms/supplies to the place of business** they purchase from. If a student receives financial assistance from an outside party, they must meet with the financial aid coordinator in student services to discuss further payment methods. **It is not necessary to purchase uniforms prior to enrollment.** Instructors will give a deadline of when uniforms must be purchased after school starts.

The following will be required prior to the first day of clinical and must meet or exceed the following criteria:

- ❖ TCAT Upper Cumberland Scrub Set
- ❖ Shoes – Must be clean, closed toe shoes only
- ❖ Bandage scissors (5 inch recommended) – in skill supply bag.
- ❖ Stethoscope with NO cloth covers allowed.- in supply bag
- ❖ Blood Pressure Cuff – in supply bag
- ❖ Watch with a second hand (should be waterproof)
- ❖ Student ID
- ❖ Pen and Permanent Marker

Uniform Appearance:

- If a long sleeve shirt is worn under the clinical uniform top, it must be solid color without logos or text visible (no quilted thermals allowed)
- Must wear a regulation student identification badge or hospital identification badge if applicable.
- All students are expected to carry required equipment in clinical rotations (if they do not have proper equipment this will result in failure for the day and sent home)
- White lab jacket may be worn with uniform, it must be worn over street clothes if student must be in clinical area for any reason other than scheduled clinical rotations, failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

- Hair neat and away from face, **long hair pulled back, restrained and off the collar**; hair should never fall over shoulders toward chest when leaning forward; beards and/or mustaches must be neat and trimmed; minimal make-up; no facial piercing allowed in clinical; **all tattoos must be covered while in the clinical**
- Jewelry limited to: wristwatch, wedding and/or engagement rings, **one pair of small stud earrings**, and one small chain necklace (must be kept inside under collar of uniform); no large holiday pins or accessories.
- You must wear a picture ID, student name tag while in the clinical practice.
- Shoes clean with clean shoestrings.
- The footwear must include socks with scrubs and hose with dress.
- Uniform **wrinkle free** & hose free of runs
- Pant hemlines should not drag the ground.
- No perfume or cologne
- No smoking or use of any tobacco products while in uniform prior to start of clinical day or during clinical day. Uniform clothing must be fresh without the odor of smoke.
- **Fingernails clean, short, nail polish clear or pale pastel only; no acrylic nails.**
 - **nails must not exceed the fingertips in length**
- **Tongue, nose, lip, facial, or other piercings (other than a single pair of earrings on ear lobes) must be replaced with a clear spacer while in clinical.**
- **Students are expected to change out of school uniform before going out socially.**
- **No cell phones are permitted in any clinical areas.**
- **Good personal hygiene and good grooming are very important in every area of the organization.**

Violation of Uniform Policy may result in students being sent home (with absence time accrued) and point deduction in worker characteristics and clinical course.

At the instructor's discretion, the student, if inappropriately dressed whether in clinical, classroom, or seminar, may be sent home. This will be reflected in the loss of hours and worker characteristics point deductions.

POLICY ON CONDUCT

Students are expected to abide by the policies set forth. Any policy violation or unprofessional conduct may be reason for automatic dismissal or suspension at the discretion of the School Director or Assistant Director (Administrative person in charge).

Under The Influence of A Substance:

Student may incur disciplinary action for the following:

- Being under the influence of, having possession of alcoholic beverages, or under the influence of drugs which impair judgment while assigned in clinical practice at any health care facility, during school, or while acting in the role a practical nursing student.

NOTE: Students may be requested to submit to a urine drug screen at the request of a clinical affiliate at the cost of the student.

At this request, students will be given the location of approved vendors and a deadline date and time to have the specimen collected. Failing to meet this deadline will result in termination from the program. Students must follow the approved vendor's policy for collecting the specimen.

- The Laboratory Medical Review Officer (MRO) will contact only students with positive drug screens to confirm a valid prescription exists.
- Prescription medication should not be over one year old; it is recommended that you visit your doctor and get updated prescriptions for all the prescribed medications you take.
- If MRO is unable to validate a legal prescription exists, the screen will be reported as positive to the clinical affiliate and the student would not be able to obtain required clinical hours resulting in failure of the course.
- Any student testing positive will not be eligible for re-enrollment for at least 5 years.
- If a screen result is inconclusive, the test must be repeated at the student's expense.
- Payment for all screens will be the students' responsibility. Payment will be made at the time of collection to the Vendor chosen by the student from the supplied Vendor list

PRACTICAL NURSING EXAMINATION POLICY

- **Academic Dishonesty:** plagiarism, cheating (including possession of unauthorized testing material during exam, electronic devices, more than one browser open & etc.), and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Student guilty of academic misconduct, either indirectly or directly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. Disciplinary actions may include receiving a zero "0" on the exam, suspension and/or dismissal from the program.
- Objective tests will be given at the completion of each unit in a course; most are offered in a computerized format.
- A final exam will be given at the end of each course.
- **On exam days, if necessary, only a writing utensil should be at the student's desk (all personal items including purses, coats, textbooks, etc... should remain in lockers)**
- Instructor has the option of how to administer the exam (written, computerized, etc...)

- **Student will use the following time schedule in regard to scheduled test time allowance for exam completion (the time may change at the instructor's discretion).**
 - ❖ 90 seconds per question (NCSBN recommendation)
- **Since questions are not allowed during the NCLEX-PN, students will not be allowed to ask questions regarding exam content.**
- **When paper/pencil exam is given:**
 - Students may receive an answer sheet, cover sheet, and test booklet.
 - Students will write name, student number, date, & test name on answer sheet as directed.
 - Points may be deducted if students fail to cover the answer sheet.
 - No marks should be made on the test booklet unless instructed otherwise.
 - Any scratch paper used will be turned in at the end of the exam.
 - Removal of any test material from the room will result in disciplinary action.
 - Upon completion, students will turn in test booklet, answer sheet, and any scratch paper and return to their seat.
- **When computerized testing is given:**
 - Students will log into D2L/ATI (learning management system) and begin testing when instructed.
 - It is the students' responsibility to remember log in username and password.
 - Failure to remember username and password may result in deduction of points.
 - If unable to login at time of testing, the student may be required to take a makeup exam at a later time and lose the hours associated with the class testing
 - It is recommended you save answer after each question.
 - If a technical problem arises during the exam, students should raise their hand and wait for instructor's assistance.
 - Upon completion, students will remain quietly in their seat.
 - Grades will be available at the end of the test or by end of day if possible.

Students are not allowed to copy any test information in any way, shape, or form

- **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXIT THE ROOM DURING A TEST UNLESS IT IS AUTHORIZED BY THE INSTRUCTOR**
- Student progress in any course will be evaluated mid and at the end of course. Students will be counseled if GPA is less than 84% mid-course of any class. (revised 05/16/2019)
- Examinations may be made up if a student misses the scheduled test times after school hours.
- Unit examinations missed due to absence or tardiness will be made up within 7 calendar days. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the course instructor and schedule a makeup examination. The make-up examination will cover material addressed in each unit but will not be in the same format. **Make-up examinations may be written in essay or fill-in-the-blank format.**

Tests may be made up with the permission of the PN faculty and director, if missed due to suspension or other forms of disciplinary action, but a different exam may be given and 80% will be the highest grade possible

- **All unit test must be completed prior to taking the final examination.**
- In the case of absence during a scheduled final examination, the faculty will require official

documentation be brought in to explain the urgency of the absence.

- If the final must be taken late because of above reasons, a different final exam will be given.

TCAT-UPPER CUMBERLAND PN COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS AND GRADUATION CRITERIA

To graduate from the TCAT-Upper Cumberland Practical Nursing Program, a student must meet the following requirements.

- **Maintenance of a grade of “B” (80) or above in each of the required nursing courses in the curriculum**
- **Maintenance of satisfactory Progress/Performance evaluations**
- **Maintenance of an attendance record per the requirements of the nursing program**

Upon graduation, a diploma will be issued to attest completion of the practical nursing program. Licensure will be granted after satisfactorily applying for and passing the National Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN).

ATI™ (Assessment Technologies Institute®) Nursing Education is the NCLEX preparatory course that currently has been selected by the faculty for assisting our students in NCLEX success. All fees (paid per trimester) are non-refundable. Students will utilize this program *throughout their course of enrollment* (reviews, proctored examinations, remediation, etc.) **with ATI™’s Content mastery grades being awarded in related theory courses**. Students will be provided with the following:

- **Nurse Logic®, 3.0** – An online, multimedia tutorial that teaches students to “think like a nurse.” It provides a formal introduction to critical thinking methods, the nursing process, priority setting frameworks, and test-taking strategy. Nurse Logic® has been created to help students succeed in the program.
- **Learning System** – Offers a selection of practice assessments that break content areas into smaller sections. Tips are offered to students to help identify key components of the question and to eliminate questions distractors.
- **Self-Assessment Inventory** – is a tool that will help the new nursing student look at their baseline and end-of-program **critical thinking** (objective analysis of facts used to form a judgement) abilities as it relates to their nursing practice.
- **Critical Thinking Assessment (Entrance and Exit) examination**
- **Content Mastery Series – (Practice and Proctored Assessments/examinations)**
Standardized assessments derived from the NCLEX – PN® test plan. Outcomes include topics to review (linked directly to review models), QSEN (Quality and Safety Education for Nurses) Competencies, patient/client needs (NCLEX-PN), and thinking skills. These assessments provide students with direct feedback on the areas of deficiency a student may have. Content area students will be expected to successfully complete include:
 1. Fundamentals of Nursing
 2. Adult Medical-Surgical Nursing
 3. Nursing Care of Children
 4. Maternal and Newborn Care
 5. Mental Health
 6. Pharmacology
 7. Management

The above content areas will be given before the final of each course.

Standardized Proctored Assessments have four levels of mastery:

- Level 3 = 95
- Level 2 = 90
- Level 1 = 85
- <Level 1 = 80

If all remediation is completed after the proctored exam, students will receive an additional 5 points on this grade.

- **Focused Review** – A media-rich online study guide based upon each student's individual results on each content Mastery Series® and linked to the Review Modules
- **Review Modules** – Also part of the content Mastery Series®, student will have access to online and printed reference manuals that are linked to the NCLEX-PN® blue print.
- **Comprehensive Predictor Examination** – Assessment/exam that offers the students their individual probability of successful passage of the PN-NCLEX on the first attempt. This test will be given at the end of the third trimester. The Comprehensive Predictor Examination will account for one-third of your Clinical III grade.
- **Clinical Simulation Interactive Case Studies**- Practice case studies can and will be assigned by faculty to be completed at specified times in the program. These case studies are interactive and patient outcomes are based on your input as the patient's nurse. These assignments correlate to areas of study in: Maternal Child, Mental Health Nursing, Pediatrics and Medical Surgical Nursing I and II.
- **All test questions are the copyrighted property of ATI. It is a violation of law to copy or give others any part of the ATI test. If you violate this, ATI may seek legal action and you could be subject to civil and criminal penalties.**

TCAT Upper Cumberland PN students will also complete a “live review” for PN NCLEX Success. Currently, Hurst Review® is the provider chosen by the faculty at TCAT Upper Cumberland ATI Live Review. Students are responsible for budgeting for this program that will be scheduled during the third and final trimester. Costs vary - \$200 - \$300.00, so budget accordingly.

Preparation for NCLEX success is the ticket to successful PN Licensure and practice!

PN Licensure Notation (upon graduation)

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Centers (TCAT) are responsible for providing practical nursing education to students. The Tennessee State Board of Nursing (TBON) is responsible for licensing qualified candidates in Tennessee. If you have been convicted of anything other than a minor traffic violation, you may not be eligible for licensure by the TBN, including:

- TBN will not issue a license to anyone **on probation** with the court system.
- TBN will not issue a license if **a criminal occurrence occurs during nursing school enrollment.**

All applicants (both TN and KY) must submit a FBI criminal background check and fingerprinting prior to NCLEX testing. Other state licensure requirements are available on each state Board of Nursing (BON) web site.

When applying for licensure in the state of Tennessee, if you have ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor or felony other than a minor traffic violation you must submit: (Any questions, please ask your instructor)

- A copy of the warrant and judgment or conviction papers
- Evidence of completion of fines, restitution, and probation
- Self-written letter that describes the circumstances that resulted in arrest and conviction.

Licensure applications are now online for the state of Tennessee and Kentucky do not have the same requirements. It is the responsibility of the graduate to apply with the appropriate documentation after graduating from a state approved college of nursing.

TCAT Upper Cumberland CLINICAL “AT RISK” POLICY

Students are expected to apply the theory learned in class to practice in a variety of clinical settings. The student must not threaten the physical and/or psychological well-being of a patient by his/her performance in the clinical area. If this occurs at any time, the student is in danger of course failure and the inability to progress. Students are held accountable for any real/potential threat to the patient on skills previously taught. If the instructor prevents an error, the error will be recorded as an actual error.

Any student conduct, or repeated student inability to follow standards of patient care that results in a threat to the patients' physical and/or psychological well-being is termed **“AT RISK”** behavior.

Examples of **“AT RISK”** behavior(s) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Violating nursing standards / principles previously learned including medication errors.
- Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal behavior in the presence of the patient/family/healthcare team members and instructors.
- Inadequate preparation for clinical assignment

- Failing to provide for the safety of the patient.
- No provision for means of communication for a patient.
- Neglecting to wash hands before and after nursing procedures.
- Lack of progress in performance/inability to follow directions and policies.
- No provision for privacy.
- Demonstrating incompetence/lack of preparation in patients' presence
- Failing to establish patient identification.
- Sharing confidential patient/facility information.

“AT RISK” INCIDENTS MAY BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION FROM THE TCAT Upper Cumberland and TCAT - Livingston PN NURSING PROGRAMS

- “AT RISK” behavior(s) will be documented on the Clinical “At Risk Incident” Form
- The form will include all pertinent information stated concisely, and the behavior(s) will be specifically identified. If the instructor is in doubt or if there are extenuating circumstances, the instructor will meet with the PN Coordinator and at least one other faculty member to decide about an “AT RISK” behavior.
- A student/faculty conference will be held after the “AT RISK” behavior has been documented to review the behavior and make recommendations and consequences if improvement is not shown.
- When repetitive “AT RISK” behaviors have been documented, the student will be counseled by the PN Coordinator and Faculty regarding course failure and inability to progress in the program.

CLINICAL AGREEMENT

- There shall be a written agreement between the school system and the facility providing clinical experience for students. This agreement shall be signed by the administrative authorities of the school system and the clinical facility.
- The contractual agreement will define the responsibilities and authority of both the school and the clinical facility.
- Health Education Programs have an approved contract which will be used by the TCAT Upper Cumberland system and may be adapted to the needs of the clinical facility.
- The student shall conform and be subject to all policies of the clinical training agency if not in conflict with the policies of the school.

You will be provided with a list of the affiliated clinical agencies at the time of your clinical rotation.



CLINICAL COMPETENCIES

A Clinical Competencies record will be used by all students enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program of TCAT Upper Cumberland. The record will be held by the student through-out the year and it will be the responsibility of the student to submit said record to his/her instructor/proctor for initials when any skill has been performed.

- **Students must carry this record with them in all clinical rotations.** The record should be initialed and dated by the instructor/proctor at the time of the performance of the skill.
- Other licensed personnel may supervise skills in the clinical setting and initial performance. Students will be required to display the Clinical Competencies record for mid-term and quarterly evaluations and at the instructor's request through-out the year. **This form will be turned in prior to graduation and remains in the students file for validation of skill performance.**
- Students should make every effort to complete as many skills listed on the competencies prior to finishing their clinical practicum.
- In the event a student loses the Clinical Competencies record, they will be required to purchase a new Clinical Competencies record and demonstrate each skill as if he/she had not been previously evaluated.
- Each student is to have a clinical time sheet for each facility. The clinical sheets need to be signed by the nurse to whom you are assigned with her signature and the time you arrive and the time you leave. It is the students' responsibility to get the form signed.

EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE POLICY

First aid and supportive treatment will be provided in the event of an accidental injury or sudden illness while in the clinical facility. However, it will be at the expense of the student to provide any follow up labs or medication. **Each student is responsible for his/her medical expenses for services rendered.**

CDC Guidelines

To minimize risks, you should always take precautions during any procedure that might bring you in contact with the patient's body fluids. Follow these guidelines based on CDC recommendations.

- Initiate blood and body fluids precautions, according to hospital policy.
- Wash your hands before and after contact with the patient or any soiled items.
- Don't handle patient care equipment or assist with invasive procedures if you have any open sores or irritated skin on your hands.
- Wear gloves when touching the patient's mucous membranes or broken skin. Remove the gloves and dispose of them before touching any other patient or equipment. If you tear your gloves (For example, if a needle punctures the glove) change the glove and remove the offending instrument from the sterile field.
- Wear mask and gown for any procedure that might involve splashing blood or secretions. (For example, suctioning.
- Dispose of needles in a puncture-proof container immediately after use.

- Label laboratory specimens BLOOD AND BODY FLUID PRECAUTIONS. Place them in appropriate plastic bags for transport (according to hospital policy).
- Clean blood and other body fluid spills with a 1:10 solution of sodium hypochlorite 5.25% (Follow facility policy).
- Use universal precautions.

Student Exposure Control Policy

The student will have completed blood, body fluid, and hazardous waste training prior to entering the clinical setting. Students will have been taught policies and procedures concerning personal protective equipment and the proper use of these items. While working in the clinical area it is possible to become exposed to blood or other body fluids. In the event an occurrence was to happen, the student should adhere to the following procedure:

- **First Aid Immediately-** Wash site with soap and water, follow with alcohol or other disinfectant and apply sterile dressing. If the exposed area were to be an eye or other mucus membrane, water would be sufficient.
- **Notify immediately Your Clinical instructor, Supervisor, or Nurse-**Of the occurrence and then inform the Nursing Coordinator at the TCAT Upper Cumberland/Livingston Nursing Program.
- **Complete the Employee Occurrence Report (EOR)-**Have the clinical instructor, supervisor, or nurse assist you and sign the report. **(Document the source's Medical Record Number on the (EOR)).**
- **Notify the "Nursing House Supervisor"-** For the order of "Needle Stick Panel: to be written on the patient's chart and notify the laboratory.
- **It is the student's responsibility to take care of the cost related to the incident.**

ALL REPORTING OF OCCURRENCES MUST BE DONE IMMEDIATELY

Student Pregnancy

In the event of pregnancy, the student must have verification from an authorized health care provider stating eligibility to continue in the program. This statement shall indicate whether the student can safely perform all duties necessary for her training program without limitations or danger to her personal health or that of the patient. This form must be returned to the PN Coordinator before going to clinicals.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the coordinator of any health condition which could affect their ability to participate in the clinical practice.

TCAT-Upper Cumberland Clinical Reminders: (for clinical rotations)

- Uniforms must be clean, pressed, clean white shoes.
- White lab coat may be worn (optional).
- **Equipment to be brought to clinical:**
 1. Stethoscope
 2. Bandage scissors.
 3. Watch with second hand.
 4. Clinical notebook with 8 X 11 paper for documentation
 5. Drug reference.
 6. Black permanent ink pen (and Sharpie marker)
 7. Mints/optional, (no gum chewing!)
- **Stud earrings** (no more than one earring per ear). **All other piercings (tongue, nose, etc.) must be removed. (See handbook)**
- **All exposed tattoos must be covered.**
- One ring/set (beware – high mounted stones can be lost, or cause injury to the patient).
- **No perfume or strong-smelling scents are to be worn.**
- **Hygiene** – All students should be smell free! This includes strong odors of cigarettes, body odor and garlic!
- Students are to check in with the assigned instructor **before the scheduled rotation start time.** Arrive a little early if you are a slow walker! If there is more than one clinical instructor at a facility, we will designate who will be taking attendance. Students in clinical rotations (e.g. OB, etc.) must get the supervising nurse to initial arrival and exit times on appropriate form. If **tardy**, let the instructor know if at the facility.
- **Student cell phones are not allowed within the clinical facility.** See clinical responsibilities (personal possession/use of a cell phone) In case of an **emergency**, contact should be made through TCAT Upper Cumberland (931)444-1328 or TCAT-L at 931-823-5525. Violation of policy will result in disciplinary action.
- **Clinical Attendance: see page 25 regarding clinicals.**
 1. Notice of clinical absence must be reported prior to starting time (see PN handbook). If an instructor is not there, you can leave a message, but you should call back and speak with your assigned clinical instructor. Instructors may give you their cell phone numbers and if so, you may contact them via their cell.
 2. Students must be present within one-half hour of their scheduled clinical starting time, or you will be sent home. For example, if you are scheduled to start at 0700, you must be there, at the latest, by 0730 or risk being counted six hours absent. Clinical absences may have to be completed if the student misses valuable practice time.
 3. **Students may not leave the facilities during assigned clinical times unless given permission from their instructors.**
- **There will be no smoking at any clinical site.**
- It is recommended purses, and other valuables and cell phones, be locked in your vehicle trunk. Do not bring valuables or cash (other than what is in your pocket) into the facility. The facility will not be responsible for losses.
- Parking – Carpool if possible and park only in the designated areas (which will be stipulated by the facility).

Failure to abide by any of these policies may result in you being sent home, counted absent, and receiving a worker characteristic grade point deduction. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action (review your handbook!)

CLINICAL COMPETENCIES* (Indicates performance, not proficiency)

Student Name: _____

Skill	Lab	Clinical (Observer, please date and initial each occurrence)	
Blood Glucose			
Catheters:			
Foley Catheter Insertion			
Straight Catheter Insertion			
Catheter Removal			
Catheter Irrigation			
Documentation			
Dressings:			
Clean Dressing			
Sterile Dressing			
Decubitus Care			
Enemas			
Enteral Tubes			
NG Tube Care/Removal			
Staple/Suture Removal			
Suctioning			
Telemetry			
Med/IV Administration			
Oral			
Topical (Creams/Patches)			
Enteral			
Eye/Ear Drops			
Inhalants/Aerosols			
Suppositories			
Intradermal			
Intramuscular			
Subcutaneous			
Mixed Insulin procedure			
IV Primary			
IVPB (intermittent)			
IVPB (secondary)			
IV Flush			
IV Conversion to Lock			
IV Tubing Change			
IV D/C			
IV Push			
Additional Skills			Observer's Signature & Title/Initials

MEDICATION ERRORS

The administration of medicine is critical to the welfare of the patient; therefore, a separate record is needed in case of repeated errors. Students must learn the necessity for accuracy in medication administration. When a medication error is committed, the error will be documented on the Medication Error Form and kept in the student's file. A medication error occurs if there is a violation of one of the six rights during preparation and/or administration of the medications as follows:

1. Right Patient
2. Right Medication
3. Right Dose
4. Right Route
5. Right Time
6. Right Patient Education
7. Right Documentation
8. Right to Refuse
9. Right to Assessment
10. Right to Evaluation

Medication errors can include: Omission of medication patient as scheduled. Potential error in medication administration (even if the instructor prevents an error, it will be documented as an error). Medication administration errors by students who violate any one of the seven rights will be documented on the Medication Error Form and medication error points will be cumulative during the second and third trimesters, however, each occurrence will affect clinical evaluations individually.

Points for medication errors will be based on type of error; route of error; classification of drug / IV solution; & reporting time.

Medication errors are serious clinical "at risk" deviations that will result in counselling, possible suspension, or termination from the program - dependent upon the severity of the infraction and point accumulation. All medication errors will affect the clinical grade.

**The school reserves the right for taking immediate action
regarding any error which displays gross incompetence or negligence.**

MEDICATION ERROR REPORTING FORM

Year to Date Total _____

Name of Student _____

Date _____

Type of Error	Route of Administration	Classification of Drug/IV Solution	
<u>One Point</u> Wrong time 1 Wrong route 1 Omission 1 (for each dose omitted) Wrong date 1 Wrong IV rate 1 (for each hr at wrong rate) Wrong equipment 1	PO 2 Enteral Tubes 2 IM/SC 3 IV 4 Other 1 (transdermal/etc.)	<u>One Point</u> Antacid 1 Antidiarrheal 1 Cathartic/laxative 1 Unmedicated IV 1 Expectorant/antitussive .. 1	<u>Three Points</u> Antimicrobials 3 Anticonvulsant 3 Antipsychotic 3 Barbiturate 3 Colony stimulating 3 Diuretic 3 Glucose/Glucagon 50% 3 Narcotic antagonist 3 Oral antidiabetic agent . 3 Steroid 3
		<u>Two Points</u> Antianxiety 2 Anticholinergic 2 Antidepressant 2 Antiemetic 2 Antihistamine/histamine 2 Anti-inflammatory 2 Antiparkinson 2 Antiulcer agent 2 Coating agent 2 Electrolyte 2 Estrogen/Progestin 2 Gastric stimulants 2 IVF with additives 2 Lipid lowering agent 2 Muscle Relaxant 2 Nonbarbiturate sed/hypnotic 2 Non-narcotic analgesic . 2 Ophthalmic Agent 2	<u>Four Points</u> Anticoagulant/ thrombolytic 4 Bronchodilator 4 Cardiovascular drug 4 Antidysrhythmic 4 Antihypertensive 4 Vasoactive/vasodilator . 4 Narcotic analgesic 4
		<u>Reporting Time</u>	
		31 – 60 min 1 61 min – 6 hr 2 Over 6 hrs 3	
		<u>Two Points</u> Wrong dose 2 Extra dose 2 (For each extra dose) Wrong med/sol 2	
		<u>Four Points</u> Unordered med 4 Med given to pt with stated allergy 4 Documentation 4 Wrong pt/improper ID. .. 4	
		<u>Five Points</u> Heparin Products 5 TPN 5 Insulin 5	
		<u>Type total</u> _____	
		<u>Route/ time total</u> _____	
		<u>Class/solution total</u> _____	
		<u>Grand Total</u> _____	

Comments: _____

Instructor Signature: _____



Student Nondisclosure Agreement

TCAT Upper Cumberland has a legal and ethical responsibility to safeguard the privacy assigned student and to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patient health information. During my assignment at any Clinical Affiliate, I may come into possession of confidential patient information, even though I may not be directly involved in providing patient services.

I understand that such information must be maintained in the strictest confidence. As a condition of my assignment, I hereby agree that, unless directed by my instructor/supervisor, I will not at any time during or after my assignment with the Clinical Affiliate disclose any patient information to any person whatsoever or permit any person whatsoever to examine or make copies of any patient reports or other documents prepared by me, coming into my possession, or under my control, or use patient information, other than as necessary during my assignment. When patient information must be discussed with other healthcare practitioners during my assignment, I will use discretion to ensure that such conversations cannot be overheard by others who are not involved in the patient's care. I will not use any kind of photographic equipment, including cell phone cameras, during my clinical assignment at any clinical affiliate.

I understand that violation of the agreement may result in corrective action, up to and including termination from the program.

Printed Name (legible, please)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Note: This must be signed and returned as instructed.



STUDENT AGREEMENT

I hereby state that I have read and understand the TCAT Upper Cumberland PN program guidelines and will abide by these rules of conduct. Failure to comply with TCAT Upper Cumberland PN handbook advisements may result in disciplinary action, that may include student evaluation notations, worker characteristic grade reductions, suspension, and/or possible termination from the program. Furthermore, I understand that because my training requires time spent in affiliating health care facilities, I am subject to all to all the rules and regulations of that agency.

Date: _____ **Signature (legible, please):** _____

Note: This must be signed and returned as instructed.



Date _____

Regarding: Tennessee State Board of Licensure

I am aware that I may successfully complete my diploma in practical nursing at TCAT Upper Cumberland under the terms outlined in the policies and procedures of the TCAT Upper Cumberland Practical Nursing Program.

This does not guarantee that the Tennessee Board of Nursing (TBON) will accept my application for licensure (upon graduation) or issue me a Practical Nursing License.

Name(print) _____

Signature _____



TCAT- Upper Cumberland Practical Nursing Cell Phone Policy

Name (print)_____

Date_____

This is to certify that I have read and am aware of the cell phone and electronic device policy in both the classroom and clinical practicum sites. Failure to abide by these policies will result in disciplinary action (suspension, referral to director, or TCAT president).

Signature _____



I have been instructed in and understand the safety precautions provided by TCAT Upper Cumberland agree to participate fully and correctly in drills as well as in the event of an actual emergency.

Date: _____

Student Name (printed) _____

Signature: _____



PN Handbook

Cellphone, smart watch, electronic devices: Use of Cell phones/or other electronic devices is strictly prohibited in the classroom or during clinical practicum (lecture, testing), unless permission is granted by the instructor.

Sign outs: Any student who leaves before the end of the school day should first sign out with their instructor. Students who fail to sign out may be dismissed from the program. Hours from signing out will be counted as absence hours.

Calling in Absence: When a student misses three (3) consecutive days without contacting the college, that student will be presumed to have withdrawn from the college.

Student Handbook-(see pages 29-46 for student policies)

Classes and Class Schedules: All classes will start and end promptly at the designated time. Class breaks and lunch will be observed strictly as shown below. No student will leave the classroom or shop without permission from the instructor. Violation of this rule will be just cause for dismissal. Daily Schedule (All Classes Start at 7:30 a.m. and End at 3:30 p.m.)**

Calling in Absences: All students are required to call absences. Any student who is absent three consecutive days will be presumed to have withdrawn from the college.

Sign ins: If a student is not in the classroom/shop at the designated time for the class to start (including returning from break and lunch), the student is considered tardy. Students should first sign-in on the attendance sheet in the classroom with their instructor upon entering the classroom/shop. Students who fail to sign-in may be dismissed.

Sign-outs: A student who leaves before the end of the school day should first sign out with their instructor and then sign out on the attendance sheet in the classroom. Students who fail to sign out may be dismissed.

Cell Phone Policy: Students shall be allowed to possess cellular phones, pagers, etc.; however, such devices must not be visible and must remain turned off during the instructional school day. Phones are allowed to be turned on during breaks and lunch periods only. Students who violate this policy can be suspended or dismissed.

Failure to abide by these policies will result in disciplinary action up to termination from the program._____

Student Signature

Date



Grading Policy- is at the discretion of each instructor whether or not a question is thrown out, partial credit given, and/or remediation done. This applies to the whole class if any of the above options are chosen by the instructor. These are the guidelines that the instructor uses to determine the above actions:

- 50% or < of the class gets correct answer- remediation is considered
- 30% or < the class may be given partial/ all credit if the instructor determines the question was misleading and remediation is done for the whole class
- partial credit on all that apply if instructor determines that is a misunderstanding of verbiage. Also, on all that apply with ATI which is computer graded the questions are graded all or none. The instructor will make the decision if partial credit is given to the class.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____