

Practical Nursing Program

Additional Admission Requirements

Students interested in the Practical Nursing (PN) program must complete all admission requirements listed below by the acceptance deadline. Applicants must submit both the [Iowa Western application](#) for admission and the **new for fall 2025 Practical Nursing (PN) application**. If the program does not fill by the deadline, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached.

The Nursing programs at Iowa Western are approved by the [Iowa Board of Nursing](#):

Address: River Point Business Park, 400 SW 8th Street, Suite B, Des Moines, IA 50309-4685

Phone: (515) 281-3255

Program Locations, Start Dates, and Deadlines:

Location	Semester Program Begins	Acceptance Deadline		Program Capacity
Council Bluffs	Fall (August)	January 31	until program is full	75
Council Bluffs	Spring (January)	September 1	until program is full	75
PN-Hybrid	Fall (August)	January 31	until program is full	16
Shelby County Center	Fall (August)	January 31	until program is full	24
Clarinda Center	Fall (August)	January 31	until program is full	24

Important: Apply to Iowa Western for your intended start term and submit the **new for fall 2025 PN application** once all requirements are met. Ensure all documents are submitted and your application reflects the correct start term, year, and location.

Section 1: College Admissions Requirements

To apply for Iowa Western, complete the following steps:

Submit an Application:

- Apply online at www.iwcc.edu.
- There is no application fee.
- Select your preferred location and start term when completing the application. Refer to the chart provided for options.

Request Transcripts:

- Have your final, official high school transcript, HiSET/GED transcript, or college transcript sent to Iowa Western. For more details on submitting official transcripts, please refer to item 2 on the [Admissions page](#).

Optional Test Scores:

- Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT) are not required for admission.
- If available, submit your most recent scores to help advisors determine placement in math and English courses.

Note: Completing these steps ensures acceptance to Iowa Western as a General Studies AS student with a secondary program of "Prep Practical Nursing." Students can then enroll in general education courses required for the PN program. For help with registration or admissions requirements, contact us at admissions@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3277.

Section 2: Practical Nursing Program Admissions Requirements

To apply for the Practical Nursing (PN) program, complete the following steps:

1. **Submit Proof of CNA Certification:**
 - Provide a valid CNA certificate showing completion of the 76-hour nurse aide course or be active on the Direct Care Worker registry.
 - CNA courses are offered through Iowa Western (HSC-172) or the Office of Continuing Education.
2. **Complete Prerequisite Courses:**
 - Earn a grade of "C" or higher in each of the following courses:
 - PSY-121: Developmental Psychology
 - ENG-105: Composition I
 - Earn a grade of "B" or higher in each of the following courses:
 - BIO-168: Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Labs
 - *Prerequisite:* "C" or higher in Human Biology or high school Anatomy and Physiology within the last two years.
 - BIO-173: Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Labs
 - *Prerequisite:* "C" or higher in BIO-168.
3. **TEAS Exam:**
 - Achieve a composite score of 58.7% or higher. Scores are valid for three years.
 - Learn more at the [TEAS Information page](#).
4. **New for fall 2025 Submit a PN Application:**
 - Complete the [Practical Nursing application](#), ensuring all required attachments are included. Missing items will result in the application being returned for correction.
5. **PN-Hybrid Program Requirement:**
 - Maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher in PSY-121, ENG-105, BIO-168, and BIO-173.
 - If a student does not pass one or more hybrid courses, they must retake the failed courses in a face-to-face format.

Note: Ensure all requirements are met before submitting the [PN application](#). For assistance, contact the Admissions Office at admissions@iwcc.edu or 712-325-3277.

Recommended Course Sequence:

Semester	Courses	Credits
First Semester	BIO-157: Human Biology (may be waived)	4
	*ENG-105: Composition I	3
	HSC-172: Nurse Aide (may be waived)	3
Second Semester	*BIO-168: Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
	*PSY-121: Developmental Psychology	3
Third Semester	*BIO-173: Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4

Note: Classes marked with an asterisk are required for acceptance. Additional listed courses are needed to graduate from the PN program. Keep in mind that taking extra general education courses may impact your full-time status once you are accepted into the program.

Section 3: Acceptance Process

1. **Eligibility and Application Review:**
 - Complete the College Admissions Requirements (Section 1) and the Practical Nursing Program Admissions Requirements (Section 2), including the **new for fall 2025 PN application**.
 - Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.
2. **Priority Deadlines:**
 - Acceptance begins after the listed priority deadlines:
 - **Fall Semester:** January 31 (or until capacity has been met)
 - **Spring Semester:** September 1 (or until capacity has been met)
 - Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis after these dates until the program is full.
3. **Selection Process:**
 - If the number of eligible applicants exceeds program capacity, priority is given to:
 - Students with the highest point totals (see table below).
 - *Tiebreaker:* Students with the highest number of prerequisite courses completed at Iowa Western.
 - If a second tiebreaker is needed, preference will be given to the students with the earliest application file completion date.
4. **Notification:**
 - Students accepted into the program (or placed on an alternate list) will be notified via email approximately two weeks after the priority deadline.
 - Applications missing required items or containing errors will be returned with notes for correction.

Practical Nursing Application Scoring Criteria

Points are calculated based on the following criteria.

To be included in the total, all required documentation must be submitted to the Admissions Office by the priority deadline.

1. Grade Point Average (GPA) for Anatomy & Physiology

GPA (BIO-168 & BIO-173)	Points Awarded
4.0	20
3.5	15
3.0	10

Note: Points are based on the GPA earned in Human Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO-168) and Human Anatomy & Physiology II (BIO-173).

2. Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Examination

TEAS Composite Score	Points Awarded
90.7% or higher	20
78% - 90.6%	15
58.7% - 77.9%	10

Note: Points are based on the composite score achieved on the TEAS examination.

Section 4: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why are there additional requirements?

The Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare students for a demanding and rigorous career in nursing. These requirements ensure students have the foundational knowledge to succeed.

2. How long does it take to complete the program requirements?

Most students complete the prerequisites in 2-3 semesters, depending on their course load and prior academic experience.

3. What happens if I don't meet the priority deadline?

Applications submitted after the priority deadline will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis, provided there are still spaces available.

4. Is there a separate application for the PN program?

Yes. Beginning in fall 2025, students must complete the [PN application](#) after meeting all required admissions steps. Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.

5. How will I know if I get accepted?

Accepted students (*and alternates, if applicable*) will be notified via email within two weeks of the priority deadline. If spaces remain, qualified students may be admitted on a rolling basis until the program is full or the semester begins.

6. What do I need to do once I get accepted to the Practical Nursing Program?

Accepted students must:

- Register for classes.
- Attend a nursing orientation event.
- Complete a criminal background check and physical paperwork.
- Submit vaccination records or required documentation for those unable or unwilling to receive vaccinations, as determined by clinical site policies.

*Admissions Requirements are subject to change. Contact the Admissions Office with questions.

Non-Discrimination Clause:

Iowa Western is committed to providing an inclusive environment. Please review our [Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination](#) for the latest information.

Admissions Contact Information:

Admissions Office:

- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Phone: 712-325-3277
- Email: admissions@iwcc.edu