

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 [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 Begins	Application Opens	Priority Deadline	Final Deadline
Council Bluffs (In-Person & Hybrid)	Fall	January 31	March 3	July 31
Council Bluffs (In-Person Only)	Spring	September 1	October 14	December 18
Iowa Western Centers (Atlantic & Clarinda)	Fall	January 31	March 3	July 31

It is the student's responsibility to complete their application and ensure all admissions requirements are met, including verifying the correct start term, year, and location for their designated health program.

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. **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@iowcc.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 [PN application](#).
- Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.

2. Priority Deadlines:

- Acceptance begins after the listed priority deadlines:
 - **Fall Semester:** March 3 (or until capacity has been met)
 - **Spring Semester:** October 14 (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:
 - **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.

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?

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