

Frequently Asked Questions



At Trinity College of Nursing, we provide our students with all the training required to be successful in their career and the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX-RN. Hands-on learning mixed with instruction by qualified faculty will take your education to the next level.

What is a Registered Nurse and what do they do?

A registered nurse is a healthcare professional who has been licensed by the state to provide and coordinate patient care after receiving specialized education and passing a comprehensive national test (NCLEX-RN). RNs work in a wide range of direct patient care roles and can specialize in any field in medical care today. They can also work in healthcare consulting and educational roles outside of the clinical setting.

What Is the Difference Between an LPN and an RN?

RNs require more education such as a 2-year degree, 4-year degree, or completion of a hospital diploma program. LPNs work under the supervision of RNs and are not given the same level of responsibility that an RN typically receives.

How Do You Become a Registered Nurse?

To become a Registered Nurse, you'll need to attend an approved program and earn a Associate's degree in nursing, Bachelor's degree in Nursing, or diploma in nursing. Once you graduate, you're able to sit for the NCLEX-RN. When you pass the exam, you'll be granted licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN). It can take one and a half to three years

depending on if you attend the program full or part time, and how long it takes you to complete your pre-requisites.

How much experience working as an LPN do I need prior to applying to the program?

You will need to have a minimum of 6 months to 1 year experience working as an LPN. This will be confirmed by your employer(s).

I don't live in Tennessee can I still attend?

Yes. It is mandatory that you have either a state of Tennessee LPN license, or a multistate compact license so that you can attend clinicals. You will be notified in advance so you can make travel arrangements.

Are there any pre-requisites prior to applying to the program?

Prior to attending the program, you must have taken the following courses at an accredited institution. English 1 and 2, Statistics or college math, Psychology, Microbiology w/lab, and Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2 w/lab. All sciences must have been completed within the last 5 years and passed with a grade of B or better.

It's been a while since I've been in school is the LPN to RN Program Hard?

The program requires dedication and commitment to studying challenging subjects in nursing, and general education, both can be tedious. It will require you to have good study habits and time management skills. You'll need to complete clinicals at healthcare facilities, which require research and preparation. However, Trinity College of Nursing is committed to providing you with everything you need to succeed within the program including hands-on experience, mentoring, tutoring, and constructive feedback. Please read our **BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS** on our website under the information tab.

Do I have to take an entrance test?

Yes, you will have to take and achieve a passing score on the NLN NACE-1. You will have to achieve a score of 74%. This assesses your fundamental nursing knowledge. Study guides are available for purchase on the www.nln.org website.

Do you offer a day and evening LPN to RN program?

No. At this time the program is only offered part-time in the evenings. The part-time evening program is about 14 months in length this includes breaks and holidays. Classes

are held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 5:00pm-10:30pm. Clinicals are held on Fridays and Saturdays. Some of your general education courses will be hybrid (online with scheduled meeting times via zoom being on camera is mandatory), **all** nursing courses require you to attend classes synchronously (logged in at a certain time via a web camera). Mandatory clinicals are held on Friday evenings, and/or Saturdays between 7a-5p. There may be an occasion when clinicals will be on Sunday. Advanced notice will be given of dates and times. All pre-requisites must be completed prior to starting the program.

How many students do you allow in each cohort?

We allow a maximum of 20 students per cohort. We believe when it comes to learning; smaller class sizes are better.

I am a male should I apply?

Absolutely, males are welcomed and needed in the field of nursing.

Do you offer financial aid?

No. We recommend that you apply for the Affirm financing. Inquire about tuition reimbursement through your employer, and check scholarship opportunities via your church or other community entities. If approved and qualified, we offer a (4) payment plan option for each semester which requires a minimum of 25% down. However, even if you are utilizing a payment plan option, you are still responsible for the full cost of the tuition owed for the program even if you withdraw, fail, or is dismissed.

Do you offer grants or loans?

No. Not at this time. We encourage you to apply to Affirm, your bank, credit union, or PayPal. We do offer payment plans if approved.

Do you offer scholarships?

Yes, please see our student catalog for details once accepted. You can also inquire during the admissions process.

Why should I become a Registered Nurse?

According to Bureau of Labor statistics employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 6 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations.

About 203,200 openings for registered nurses are projected each year, on average, over the decade. The pandemic has further exacerbated the RN nursing shortage.

What are the benefits of being an RN?

- **Flexible work hours:** As an RN, you can work full-time, part-time, or per-diem. You choose to work shifts that work well with your family obligations. You can work three 12-hour shifts, 8-hour shifts, the night shift to spend more time with your family during the day, or work in the early morning hours to have more time in the afternoon.
- **Different workplace options:** You can work in various clinical settings: including clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, rehabs, urgent care, physician's office, surgical centers, correctional facilities, homes, and more.
- **Fast track career:** You can become an RN in 14 months if you have satisfied the pre-requisites, if not it will take you longer up to 2 ½ years.

How soon can I obtain my license after I graduate?

We recommend you test as soon as possible upon graduating. We will prepare you and support you until the day you test and beyond.

The program is hybrid will there be a graduation ceremony?

Absolutely. It will take place in the beautiful city of Chattanooga, TN.

What is the Average Salary of an RN?

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics the median annual wage for registered nurses was \$86,070 in May 2023. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$63,720, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$132,680.

What is the Employment Outlook for an RN?

Employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 6 percent from 2023 to 2033, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 203,200 openings for registered nurses are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. Demand for healthcare services will increase

because of the large number of older people, who typically have more medical problems than younger people. Registered nurses also will be needed to educate and care for patients with chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity.

Can I become a Nurse Practitioner (APN) in the future?

Yes, we encourage you to further your education in nursing. To become an Advance Practice Nurse, it requires you to have a BSN. Some programs offer RN-MSN. Please do your research and apply to a program that aligns with your academic goals. The field of nursing has grown drastically over the last decade, and as the need for primary care grows, so does the need for Advance Practice Nurses.

Nursing is an incredible field for those who want a rewarding career that includes helping others. If this is you, nursing is a great choice.

For further information about the profession of Registered Nursing please check out the link below.

Reference:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Registered Nurses, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm> (visited March 7, 2025).

What is a Registered Nurse?

<https://nursejournal.org/registered-nursing/>