

 Facts!	April 2025 <hr/> <i>An Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness Publication</i>
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ACEN Grants Candidacy Status for Chipola College's Practicing Nursing Program

In November 2024, Chipola College was informed that its Practical Nursing Program had been granted candidacy status by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The program's initial accreditation site visit will take place before November 22, 2026, at which time, if approved the college will apply for continued accreditation from ACEN.

ACEN accreditation for Chipola College's Practical Nursing Program confirms that it meets rigorous standards of nursing education, ensuring students receive comprehensive and high-quality training. It signifies that the program follows best practices in nursing education, preparing graduates to provide safe and effective care. Furthermore, ACEN accreditation enhances the program's reputation, offering students improved opportunities for licensure and career advancement in the nursing profession.

The decision to grant candidacy status is based on the program's demonstration of current compliance with ACEN Standards and Criteria, as well as its potential to achieve full accreditation. The program will need to show compliance with all ACEN Standards and Criteria during site visits scheduled for Spring 2026.

Examples of ACEN Standards and Criteria for Accreditation

Administrative Capacity and Resources

- The mission and/or philosophy of the nursing program reflects the governing organization's mission, goals, and/or values. The governing organization and nursing program have administrative capacity and resources that support effective delivery of the program and facilitate the achievement of the end-of-program student learning outcomes and program outcomes for each nursing program type, and additionally for associate's and bachelor's programs the role-specific nursing competencies.

Faculty

- Faculty are educationally and experientially qualified for their assigned roles and responsibilities, maintain expertise, and are regularly evaluated to support the achievement of the end-of-program student learning outcomes and program outcomes for each nursing program type, and additionally for associate's and bachelor's programs the

role-specific nursing competencies. Full- and part-time faculty include those individuals teaching and/or evaluating students in didactic, clinical, and/or laboratory settings.

Students

- Student policies and services support the achievement of the end-of-program student learning outcomes and program outcomes for each nursing program type, and additionally for associate's and bachelor's programs the role-specific nursing competencies.

Curriculum

- The curriculum supports the achievement of the end-of-program student learning outcomes for each nursing program type, and additionally for associate's and bachelor's programs, the role-specific nursing competencies; and is consistent with safe practice in contemporary healthcare environments.

Outcomes

- Nursing program assessment demonstrates the extent of student learning at or near the end of the program as well as program outcome achievement using a systematic plan for evaluation (SPE). The faculty create and implement a written SPE for each nursing program type to determine the extent of the achievement of each end-of program student learning outcome and program outcome, and additionally for associate's and bachelor's programs the role-specific nursing competencies, to inform program decision-making to maintain or improve student and program performance.

Chipola College offers a three-semester, 1350-clock-hour practical nursing degree. The program includes classroom exercises, clinicals, a skills lab, and a field internship. In the fall of 2024, the first class of students graduated from the Practical Nursing program. The current batch of students started their studies in January 2025 and will finish after the 2025 fall semester. A fresh class of Practical Nursing students will start classes in the fall semester of 2025. The total cost of the curriculum and program will be around \$5,200. Chipola students can apply for financial aid for this program in a number of ways. Pell Grants, Dwyer scholarships, and the Florida Open Door Scholarship program are examples of funding sources.

Chipola College Facts! is a monthly accountability and institutional effectiveness fact sheet published jointly by the Chipola College Assessment, Compliance, and Grants Office and the Office of Information Systems. Its purpose is to facilitate informed decision-making by publishing relevant information throughout the year. For more information, contact Mr. Brent Shelton at Chipola College, 3094 Indian Circle, Marianna, FL 32446 or sheltonb@chipola.edu.

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