



## **Nursing Refresher Series Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the RN and LPN Refresher Series Courses?**

A series of courses designed to assist nurses in updating their knowledge and skills. If you have not worked as a nurse for 5 years or longer, the Board of Nursing requires an approved refresher series to re – enter nursing practice. This series may also benefit employers who are looking for a method to improve employee skills and/or to facilitate agency orientation programs.

### **Is this series approved by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing?**

Yes. The RN and LPN Refresher Courses meet the state board of nursing requirements to activate the license of a nurse who has not worked in more than five years. The refresher courses will not meet the requirement of any disciplinary action required by the Board of Nursing. Each state has a unique board of nursing and this series may not meet the requirements of that state. Please check with your board of nursing.

### **What is covered in the Theory course?**

This course focuses on diseases, signs and symptoms, new medications and treatments, and potential complications.

### **What is covered in the Lab course?**

This course will review physical assessment knowledge/skills, the use of the nursing process utilizing care plans, the common psychomotor nursing skills.

### **What is covered in the clinical course?**

This course will provide students with the opportunity to become more comfortable with the nursing role through an internship experience. Selected area health care agencies provide “on the job” training working directly with a Registered Nurse.

### **Are there district boundaries to consider?**

- The Theory Course is an independent study course that requires no trips to campus and is therefore open to anyone living within the state of Wisconsin.
- The Skills Course is a lab based course. You can read and prepare at home then practice and test-out in the college skills lab. Time for labs vary with generally four to five trips to campus. **This course is ONLY offered to students living within the MSTC district.**
- The Precepted Clinical Course is done at a clinical site within the MSTC district and is **offered ONLY to students living within the MSTC district.** LPN students must complete clinical in a long term care facility also within the MSTC District.

**Can I take the lab and clinical closer to my home?**

Yes – possibly. Students who live outside of the MSTC district may take lab and clinical through other colleges. Please contact these colleges for course scheduling and fees information. You will need to get an email stating that your college will complete the skills lab and the clinical courses for you, prior to enrolling in the theory course. This is meant to prevent you from spending money on the first course and then not having a place to complete the lab and clinical courses.

**How do I purchase my materials?**

You may purchase texts and materials from any of the following:

- [MSTC Bookstore](#) located on our Wisconsin Rapids campus
- Any online textbook company such as [Amazon](#) or [Half.com](#)

**How long does it take to complete?**

You may progress through the course at your own pace, following the directions in the syllabus. You have up to 17 weeks for Spring and Fall semester and 8 weeks for Summer semester from the start of the semester to complete the course.

**Can I take all 3 courses at once?**

No, each class is taken in succession and each must be completed before enrolling in the next. The theory course is a prerequisite for the Skills course and both the Theory and Skills are prerequisites for the Clinical.

**Why take the Nursing Refresher Series?**

You may want to take the refresher series for a couple of reasons. You might be returning to the workforce after an extended leave of absence, changing areas of practice, updating skills, or a student nurse preparing to enter the workforce in addition to re-activating a license.

**Is there anything else I need to know before going to clinical?**

Several requirements are necessary before going to clinical:

- Health work must show evidence of immunity and current TB skin test.
- A Caregiver Background Check is required. The clinical agency does have the right to refuse clinical opportunity based on a negative report.
- You must obtain a limited license from the state of Wisconsin in order to perform at clinical.