This Nurse Refresher Program is for registered nurses who have successfully passed the NCLEX examination and have, at some time, been licensed in one of the fifty states. It consists of a Theory Course—Medical-Surgical Nursing Review—administered through the Friday Center for Continuing Education, and a Clinical Practicum administered through the North Carolina AHEC program.

The Nurse Refresher Program addresses a full range of common adult nursing problems. Depending on your needs, you may take both parts of the program or you may choose to take only the Theory Course. Please note that the Clinical Practicum is available only to residents of North Carolina.

The Theory Course is approved for 140 contact hours, which is equivalent to 14 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Successful completion of the Clinical Practicum provides an additional 160 hours (16 CEUs). You must complete the Theory Course prior to beginning the Clinical Practicum.
Enrollment Options

Option 1—Theory Course and Clinical Practicum

If you are a registered nurse who is a legal resident of North Carolina, who has had a lapsed or inactive license from any of the fifty states for five or more years, and who wants to return to nursing, you must enroll in Option 1. Option 1 will meet both your educational and license reactivation needs.

Prior to enrolling in Option 1, you will need to establish your eligibility for this option at a North Carolina AHEC office (see How to Register for additional information). Upon successful completion of both parts of Option 1, you will be eligible to apply for reinstatement of your nursing license in the state of North Carolina.

If you have an active North Carolina license but have not worked in a few years, Option 1 may also be the best choice for you, since it provides the current clinical experience that many clinical agencies require for employment. Discuss both options with the AHEC nurse refresher coordinator to determine which one best meets your individual needs.

Option 2—Theory Course only

If you wish to review, expand, or update your knowledge base in the field of medical-surgical nursing, you may choose to enroll in the Theory Course alone. This option is intended primarily for licensed nurses who have been practicing during the past five years and desire to update their knowledge of medical-surgical nursing, but do not need a supervised clinical experience.

Nurses who plan to change practice areas, such as from nursing administration to direct patient care, may also benefit from Option 2. Residence in North Carolina is not required. This option does not satisfy relicensure requirements in North Carolina.

How the Course Works

The Theory Course consists of twenty-four modules, and each module includes two main components: a textbook chapter and an online module. The textbook chapter provides detailed content necessary for understanding the learning outcomes for each module; the online module outlines the learning outcomes and includes interactive learning activities, additional in-depth and evidence-based notes, and key points that support the learning outcomes. Each online module also includes an ungraded self-test so you can test your knowledge. Every module culminates in a twenty-five question, multiple-choice exam that assesses your mastery of the learning outcomes.

View our website (fridaycenter.unc.edu/nursing) for a list of modules in the Theory Course.

How long does the theory course take to complete?

You will have nine months to complete the Theory Course, but you may finish it in less time. Experience has shown that most students take four to six months to complete the course. See the Policies and Restrictions section at fridaycenter.unc.edu/nursing for more details.

Cost of the Program

The following fees apply:

Option 1—Theory Course & Clinical Practicum
- Administrative fee .................................................. $125
- Theory Course fee .................................................. $600
- Clinical Practicum placement fee .............................. $250

Please note that for Option 1 you will incur additional charges that include, but are not limited to, malpractice insurance and fees for a health screening, criminal background check, and drug screening. Please feel free to discuss these charges with your AHEC coordinator.

Option 2—Theory Course only
- Administrative fee .................................................. $125
- Theory Course fee .................................................. $600

To review registration options for North Carolina residents and options for non-residents, visit fridaycenter.unc.edu/nursing

Independent of your residency status, you will first need to contact your regional AHEC nurse refresher coordinator. See the site above to determine your regional office and to obtain contact information.

You can then complete your registration in person or online.