

LPN program reinstated

By NATALIE GONZALES

This quarter WCC re-instituted its Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program, the first class since 1987 when the program was phased out.

In the past, a student could finish the first phase of the ADN program in a year and then take courses during summer quarter to complete the LPN requirements.

However, the number of students seeking this option was limited.

Since 1986 approximately 1 or 2 Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) students per year have expressed an interest in the LPN option.

In July 1987, college officials decided to offer the option only when requested by a sufficient number of students.



The 1994 LPN Class: (Back Row, l to r) S. Lewis, S. White, J. Coor, T. Bouillon, M. Carew, A. Barnes, C. Artis, L. Robinson, L. Seaberry, D. Hogan-Howland. (Front Row, l to r) S. Overton, S. Worrell, M. Beaman, L. Fisher, P. Bryant, J. Dunn, L. Brown, M. Rasdall, S. Swinson, S. Sexton. PHOTO: ROBIN STILWELL

BLET prepares police officers

By CHRIS EDWARDS

BLET is an acronym for Basic Law Enforcement Training, a 14-week certification program for law enforcement officers in North Carolina that WCC has offered since 1988.

According to Goldsboro police officer Ken Turcotte, physical trainer in the program, BLET is offered at almost all area community and technical colleges including Pitt Community, Wilson Tech, and Johnston Tech.

The last 14-week class started with 13 students and graduated 11 of them, according to Beverly Deans, Criminal Justice instructor and BLET director.

The current session has 16 students, 11 men and 5 women.

Deans said BLET participants must meet many criteria to be accepted for training.

First, the student must be 20 years or older with no criminal history. The subject must submit to a thorough medical exam as well as a drug test.

The curriculum covers 37 areas of study at the state level.

Among these areas are firearms training, criminal investigation, and identification of controlled substances.

BLET students are being trained to use nondeadly force, such as pepper gas, to disarm criminals rather than resorting to guns or nightsticks.

In addition to the specialized training, the students must go through rigorous physical training.

This training involves an aerobic cardiovascular workout, running, and an obstacle course which trains students to climb through windows, break through doors, and scale walls, all situations police officers confront.

The physical training and the course are very similar to military basic training.

The BLET program differs from WCC's Criminal Justice program. While WCC's Criminal Justice program will give one a degree, one cannot be a certified law enforcement officer in North Carolina without taking the BLET.



Basic Law Enforcement Training students joy around the campus as part of their physical training program. PHOTO: CHRIS EDWARDS

The LPN program is the oldest at WCC with 550 graduates from 1965-1986.

For spring 1994, 24 applicants were interviewed and accepted for the LPN program with only four students declining.

This year's class is composed of 19 females and one male.

The course runs for 4 quarters, March to February.

In addition to nursing courses students take biology, psychology, English and nutrition.

If after completion of this course, students would like to continue to the ADN program, they may apply the following year.

Students may obtain jobs at hospitals, nursing homes, and private practices after completing state license requirements.



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