

Technical Standards for Nursing

A candidate for admission to any of the Nursing majors must have abilities and skills in five categories: observation, communication, motor, intellectual, and behavioral/social. Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis, but a candidate must be able to meet the technical standards. The following skills are required, with or without accommodation.

- **Observation:** Candidates must have adequate visual acuity (with corrective devices as needed) with sufficient sensory capacity to observe and participate in the classroom, the laboratory, the outpatient setting, and the patient's bedside. Sensory skills adequate to perform a physical assessment are required. Functional vision, hearing and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information through procedures regularly required in a physical assessment, such as inspection, auscultation and palpation.
- **Communication:** Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and health care settings. Candidates must show evidence of effective written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills as is needed to interact with patients and to communicate patients' needs in a prompt and effective manner. Speech must be understood by all persons across the life span. In addition, candidates must have adequate auditory (hearing) acuity (with corrective devices as needed). Documentation must be complete and legible, using acceptable professional terminology. Refer to the [Disability Services](#) portal site for further information. Computer literacy is an expectation.
- **Motor:** The ability to participate in basic diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures (e.g., palpation, auscultation) is required. Candidates must have adequate tactile (touch) ability along with sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide care to patients. Strength to push, pull, and lift 50 pounds in addition to coordination, will be necessary when lifting patients and responding promptly to patients' needs in routine and emergency situations. Candidates must have the strength/ability to carry, stoop, squat, and bend in accordance to their assignment along with the ability to reach above the shoulder area and stand/walk for long periods of time. Candidates must have manual dexterity of all limbs, be able to negotiate patient care environments, and must be able to move between settings, such as clinic, classroom building, and the health care site. Energy to fulfill responsibilities and physical stamina need to be sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are required in classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences.
- **Intellectual:** Candidates must possess physical and mental (cognitive) proficiency, be able to perform measurements, calculations, read charts and graphs; adhere to professional ethics; and demonstrate a professional manner and insight in the communication process. In order to complete any of the Nursing majors, candidates must

be able to demonstrate reading mastery and understanding of nursing and medical literature, to use them together in a timely fashion in problem-solving and patient care.

- Behavioral and Social: Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities. The development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team are essential. The nurse role requires flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills, concern for others, and the ability to function in the face of uncertainties and stress inherent in clinical practice.
- Environment: Health care is, at times, delivered in high stress areas, requiring management of multiple roles, tasks, and decisions. The student must be able to organize and effectively manage time to meet deadlines, perform neat and accurate work, respond to increasing pressure, emergencies, and workloads and set priorities. The equipment and supplies used by nursing and health care personnel may present a danger to individuals with sensitivities and allergies, especially if they contain fumes or latex products. Students need to be able to successfully function in the health care environment in order to complete clinical rotations required for the major.

Students admitted to the Nursing majors will receive a copy of these standards via the nursing student handbook. Students may request accommodation to one or more technical standards based on disability. Such accommodation will be provided in accordance with College rules and state and federal statutes. Refer to [Disability Services](#) for support and information.