

NORTHWEST COLLEGE

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ENTRANCE

The purpose of the Allied Health Program is to educate students to meet the program outcomes and to ensure that no graduate will pose a danger to the patient. Students will receive both classroom and clinical instruction in multiple areas and will be required to demonstrate competency in each area.

The student must be able to demonstrate, with or without reasonable accommodation, physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the program curriculum and clinical agency requirements. Any applicant who has met the necessary academic prerequisites and can, with or without reasonable accommodation, meet and/or perform the Allied Health Technical Standards will be accepted for admission.

Prior to entry and for the duration of the program students must be free from communicable diseases, infection, psychological disorders and other conditions that present a threat to, or negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of faculty, other students, patients, or would prevent the successful performance of the responsibilities and tasks required in the nursing education program.

Prior to entry individuals will be asked to verify that they can meet the following program Technical Standards **with or without accommodation(s) and complete a pre-entrance physical examination form verified by a health care provider.**

Please carefully read the Allied Health Program Technical Standards.

Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities
Gross Motor Skills	Gross motor skills sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective patient care activities.	Move within confined spaces such as treatment room or operating suite. Assist with turning and lifting patients. Administer CPR.
Fine Motor Skills	Fine motor skills sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills	Pick up and grasp small objects with fingers such as insulin syringe, pills. Perform tracheotomy suctioning, insert urinary catheter.
Physical Endurance	Physical stamina sufficient to remain continuously on task for up to a 12- hour clinical shift while standing, sitting, moving, lifting, and bending to perform patient care activities	Walk/stand for extended periods of time; turn, position, and transfer patients. Manually resuscitate patients in emergency situations.
Physical Strength	Physical strength sufficient to perform full range of required patient care activities	Push and pull 50 pounds. Lift/move heavy objects from 35 – 50 pounds.
Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities

Mobility	Physical ability sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces; full range of motion to twist/bend, stoop/squat, reach above shoulders and below waist and move quickly; manual and finger dexterity; and hand-eye coordination to perform nursing activities	Move around in work area and treatment areas. Position oneself in the environment to render care without obstructing the position of other team members or equipment
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of patient health care needs.	Hear normal speaking level sounds. Hear auscultatory sounds. Hear auditory alarms (monitors, fire alarms, call bells). Hear cries for help.
Visual	Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for accurate observation and performance of nursing care.	See objects up to 20 feet away. Visual acuity to read calibrations on 1 ml syringe. Assess skin color (cyanosis, pallor).
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health care needs.	Feel vibrations (pulses). Detect temperature changes. Palpate veins for cannulation.
Smell	Olfactory ability sufficient to detect significant environmental and patient odors	Detect odors from patient (foul smelling drainage, alcohol breath). Detect smoke.
Communication	Oral communication skills sufficient to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the health care team, including non-verbal communication, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language Demonstrate the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and their families, supervisors and co-workers.	Give verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team and participate in health care team discussions of patient care. Elicit and record information about health history, current health state and responses to treatment from patients or family members. Convey information to patients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner. Recognize and report critical patient information to other caregivers.
Conceptual/ Spatial Abilities	Conceptual/spatial ability sufficient to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships.	Comprehend spatial relationships in order to properly administer injections, start intravenous lines, assess wounds of varying depths, and recognize normal/abnormal anatomy.
Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities

<p>Emotional/ Behavioral</p> <p>&</p> <p>Professional Attitudes and Interpersonal Skills</p>	<p>Demonstrate honesty, integrity and ethical behavior including adherence to the professional nursing code of conduct.</p> <p>Present professional appearance and demeanor, compassion, concern for others, interest for the welfare of others.</p> <p>Demonstrate emotional stability and appropriate behavior sufficient to assume responsibility/accountability for actions.</p> <p>Emotional health required to utilize their intellectual abilities fully, exercise good judgment, complete all responsibilities attendant to the nursing diagnosis and care of patients promptly, and safely.</p> <p>Must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.</p>	<p>Establish rapport with patients, instructors and colleagues.</p> <p>Respect and care for persons whose appearance, condition, beliefs and values may be in conflict with their own.</p> <p>Deliver nursing care regardless of patient's race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation or diagnosis.</p> <p>Conduct themselves in a composed, respectful manner in all situations and with all persons.</p> <p>Work with teams and workgroups.</p> <p>Establish and maintain therapeutic boundaries.</p> <p>Demonstrate emotional skills to remain calm and maintain professional decorum in an emergency/stressful situation.</p> <p>Demonstrate prompt and safe completion of all patient care responsibilities.</p> <p>Adapt rapidly to changing environment/stress.</p> <p>Exhibit ethical behaviors and exercise good judgment.</p> <p>Self-aware and able to determine when support or assistance is needed in order to properly and safely care for client.</p>
<p>Cognitive/ Quantitative Abilities</p>	<p>Reading comprehension skills and mathematical ability sufficient to understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis.</p> <p>Follow instructions and safety protocols.</p>	<p>Calculate appropriate medication dosage given specific patient parameters.</p> <p>Analyze and synthesize data and develop an appropriate plan of care.</p> <p>Collect data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions.</p> <p>Transfer knowledge from one situation to another.</p> <p>Accurately process information on medication container, physicians' orders, and monitor and equipment calibrations, printed documents, flow sheets, graphic sheets, medication administration records, other medical records and policy and procedure manuals.</p>
<p>Clinical Reasoning</p>	<p>Ability to reason across time about a patient's changing condition and/or changes in the clinician's understanding.</p>	<p>Evaluate patient or instrument responses, synthesize data, draw sound conclusions.</p>
<p>Functional Ability</p>	<p>Standard</p>	<p>Examples of Required Activities</p>

Flexibility	Adapt to Nursing Department course scheduling policy.	Available to work the hours of an assigned schedule which could include any shift and day of the week.
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After admission to the program, the student is responsible for notifying their instructor of conditions that impact the student's ability to meet the Technical Standards. Any change in the student's ability to meet and/or perform the Technical Standards would require the student to provide appropriate documentation (as identified by the Allied Health Department) that they once again meet Technical Standards.

Reasonable Accommodation Applicants who disclose a disability are considered for entry if they are otherwise qualified so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the educational program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care or others. When applicants or students disclose a disability, the provision of reasonable accommodations will be considered in an attempt to assist these individuals in meeting these required technical standards.

For accommodations, the contact person is Kim Fletcher, Disabilities Coordinator at the Northwest College Student Success Services, 307-754-6135 Kim.Fletcher@nwc.edu. Whether or not a requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on a case by case basis.

COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN TO THE NURSING DEPARTMENT

_____ I verify that I have read the Technical Standards and I can meet the listed expectations with or without accommodations.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PRINTED NAME _____