

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

These standards are abilities and behaviors that a nursing student must be able to perform in order to function in a safe manner. It is essential that students of nursing possess and maintain the following functional requirements, with or without reasonable accommodations.

In accordance with law and Cayuga Community College policy, no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of that disability, be excluded from participation in the program. Cayuga Community College will provide reasonable accommodations to a qualified individual with a disability. It is the responsibility of the applicant or student to request the accommodations that are needed to perform the behaviors listed below. Contact the Office of Disability Services and the Director of Nursing if you think you may need an accommodation for a disability.

Standard	Examples
Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations. •Develop nursing care plans that accurately reflect patient concerns. •Make decisions reflecting classroom learning in the clinical sites.
Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establish rapport with patients and health care team members. •Respond in a professional and therapeutic manner to a variety of patient expressions and behaviors.
Communicate in English with others in oral and written form in order to plan and deliver safe care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Use oral and written communication skills sufficiently for teaching and for interaction with others. •Read, understand, write and speak English. •Document patient responses.
Ambulation abilities sufficient to maintain a center of gravity when met with an opposing force as in lifting, supporting, and/or transferring a patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Function effectively for 8 – 10 hours. •Propel wheelchairs and stretchers. •Lift 35 pounds. •Move and lift patients in and out of bed, wheelchair and stretcher. •Assist with transfer and ambulation of patients.
Motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reach, manipulate and operate equipment, instruments and supplies e.g. syringes, sterile equipment, monitors. •Perform electronic documentation. •Lift, carry, push, pull and position patients. •Perform CPR.
Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hear alarms, emergency signals, cries for help, ringing telephone. •Use stethoscope to hear B/P, heart, breath, and bowel sounds.
Visual ability sufficient for observation, assessment, and performance of safe nursing care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Observe patient responses. •Discriminate color changes. •Accurately read measurements on equipment. •Read medication label and syringe accurately. •Evaluate for a safe environment.
Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment of size, shape, temperature and texture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Perform palpation e.g. pulse. •Perform functions of physical examination.
Emotional health required for full use of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt and safe completion of responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adapt to changes and display flexibility •Demonstrate professional abilities of trust-worthiness, empathy, integrity, confidentiality. •Learn to function in the environment of uncertainties and stressful situations.

Adapted from Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing (March 1993).

I have read and understand the functional abilities required of a nursing student. If there is any change in my ability to meet these standards, it is my responsibility to inform the Director of Nursing.

Signature

Date

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