

SCHOOL OF NURSING TECHNICAL STANDARDS

A candidate for a nursing degree must possess abilities and skills which include those that are observational, communicational, motor, auditory, tactile, physical, intellectual-conceptual (integrative and quantitative), behavioral, and social. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in many clinical situations in that it implies that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of observation, selection, and assessment. These technical standards are key components of the Nursing academic program.

Observation

- The candidate must be able to acquire a defined level of required information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and behavioral sciences. Observation involves visual, auditory, and tactile abilities.

Visual

- Observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand within a variety of clinical settings
- Acquire information from oral presentations, demonstrations, observations
- Observe written documents and visualize information as presented in images from paper, films, slides, video, or other media
- Interpret visual and graphic images and digital and analog representations of physiologic phenomena with or without the use of assistive devices

Auditory

- Listen to verbal communication to identify and respond to a patient's health status
- Identify and differentiate sounds such as those related to heart, lung, or other bodily functions with or without the use of assistive devices
- Listen to verbal communication to provide care in collaboration with other providers

Tactile

- Assess patients, collect data, and provide patient care through touch such as with palpation
- Identify changes in body texture and temperature

Motor

- The candidate must be able to possess motor skills, including both gross and fine muscular movements, necessary to directly perform diagnostic and interventional maneuvers such as palpation, percussion, auscultation.
 - Execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general and emergency patient care such as airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to control bleeding, administer medication, perform health assessments, and other interventions required for care of the patient
 - Manipulate a variety of objects using both fine and gross dexterity

Communication

- The candidate must be able to communicate verbally and per computer.
 - Ability to communicate verbally and in writing with maximum accuracy, clarity, efficiency and effectiveness with patients and their families, other members of the health care team, and faculty within rapidly changing and stressful health settings
 - Ability to demonstrate proficiency in keyboarding for documentation
 - Ability to perceive and interpret nonverbal communication

Intellectual-Conceptual (Integrative and Quantitative)

Abilities

- The candidate must be able to demonstrate intellectual, cognitive, conceptual abilities in order to provide safe patient care.
 - Ability to measure, calculate, reason, plan, analyze, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate complex information for problem-solving
 - Comprehend three dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships of structures.
 - Exercise appropriate judgment with analysis of situations and anticipation of consequences

Physical Abilities

- The candidate must demonstrate the physical ability to provide safety for the patient and self.
 - Move and transport objects that reflect a range of weights
 - Perform physical activities and exhibit mobility required to provide care to patients and families, at times in urgent situations
 - Tolerate physically demanding workloads

Behavioral and Social Attributes

- The candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients.
 - Function effectively and with good judgment under stressful and demanding clinical situations
 - Adapt to changing environments
 - Display flexibility and function in environments inherent with uncertainties in the clinical problems and situations of patients and others
 - Care for individuals in a respectful, sensitive, and effective manner regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other status identified in the University’s Non-Discrimination Policy.
 - Engage consistently in providing care to patients in rapidly changing, stressful, and demanding environments without current evidence of behaviors of addiction or abuse of, or dependence on alcohol or other drugs that can impair behavior or judgment.
 - Exhibit emotional stability that enables full utilization of abilities to engage in safe care to patients and participate effectively with peers, faculty, and other health care professionals
 - Demonstrate compassion, integrity, concern for others, and effective interpersonal skills
 - Demonstrate interest and motivation in providing health care and interacting with the health care team and faculty

Personal qualities reflected in behaviors that affect the care of patients and the ability to function as part of a team, thus jeopardizing safety, will be assessed during the educational process and considered as required components for progression in the program.

I certify that I am capable of demonstrating the School of Nursing technical standards on a regular basis, with or without a reasonable accommodation. If I experience difficulties in performing the essential technical standards listed above, I agree to notify the appropriate School of Nursing faculty member, administrator, or staff member.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Student Name: _____ UM ID: _____