

Technical Standards for Admission, Progression, and Graduation*

Personal Attributes and Capabilities Essential for Admission, Progression and Graduation of WVU Parkersburg Nursing Students:

The curricula leading to a degree in Nursing from WVU at Parkersburg requires students to engage in diverse and complex experiences directed at the acquisition and practice of essential nursing skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical and social abilities are required to perform these functions satisfactorily. In addition to being essential to the successful completion of the requirements of a nursing degree, these skills and functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty and other health care providers.

The following technical standards describe the non-academic qualifications required in addition to academic qualifications that the college considers essential for entrance to, continuation in and graduation from its RN-BSN degree program. Candidates for a nursing degree must be able to meet these minimum standards with or without reasonable accommodation for successful completion of degree requirements.

Standards:

A. Visual, Auditory and Tactile Abilities

- Sufficient abilities to allow him/her to gather data from written reference materials, oral presentations, demonstrations and observations of a patient and his/her environment.
- Sufficient ability to perform health assessments and interventions; conduct screening exams; and obtain information from digital, analog and waveform representations of physiologic phenomena to determine a client's condition.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Visual acuity sufficient to detect changes in skin color or condition.
- Auditory ability sufficient to detect sounds related to bodily functions using a stethoscope.
- Tactile abilities sufficient to detect unsafe temperature levels in heat-producing devices used in patient care or detect anatomical abnormalities, such as edema or small nodules.

B. Communication Abilities

- Ability to communicate with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the health care team (including spoken and non-verbal communications, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language).
- Required communication abilities, including speech, hearing, reading, writing, language skills and computer literacy.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Abilities sufficient to give verbal directions to or follow verbal directions from other members of the health care team and to participate in health care team discussions of patient care.
- Ability sufficient to elicit and record information about health history, current health state or responses to treatment from patients or family members.
- Ability sufficient to convey information to clients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals.

C. Motor Abilities

- Sufficient motor function to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings.
- Required motor functions include gross and fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength and mobility to carry out nursing procedures, perform basic laboratory tests and provide routine and emergency care and treatment to patients.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Fine motor skills sufficient to obtain assessment information by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- Physical endurance sufficient to complete assigned periods of clinical practice.

D. Behavioral, Interpersonal and Emotional Abilities

- Ability to relate to colleagues, staff and patients with honesty, integrity and non-discrimination.
- Capacity for the development of a mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationship with clients.
- Ability to work constructively in stressful and changing environments with the ability to modify behavior in response to constructive criticism.
- Capacity to demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the professional nursing and student honor codes.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Emotional skills sufficient to remain calm in all situations.
- Interpersonal skills sufficient to communicate effectively with patients and families of diverse religious, cultural or social backgrounds.
- Behavioral skills sufficient to demonstrate the exercise of good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of clients.

E. Cognitive, Conceptual and Quantitative Abilities

- Ability to read and understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis.
- Ability to gather data, develop a plan of action, establish priorities and monitor treatment plans and modalities.

- Ability to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Conceptual ability sufficient to analyze and synthesize data and develop an appropriate plan of care.
- Quantitative ability sufficient to collect data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions.

*Adapted from the Technical Standards for Admission, Progression, and Graduation from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with permission. Reviewed 12/2013