

Southwestern College Nursing Program

Technical Standards for Nursing

Revised: 5/2023

Reviewed: 5/2020, 5/2021, 5/2022, 5/2023

Senior Director of Nursing & Health Occupations Programs
Nursing Program Faculty

Policy: Nursing students must be able to perform total patient care in all nursing areas. Safe and accurate care requires physical, emotional, cognitive, and psychological abilities. The student will inform faculty and the Senior Director of Nursing of any/all disability issues immediately as they occur and upon acceptance into the program. The student will make an appointment with Disability Services with any concerns or disability issues. Any issues regarding disabilities (temporary or permanent) will be reviewed (per ADA act, 1990) and reasonable accommodations will be considered per this regulation.

If a student is unable to perform safe and accurate nursing care described in the technical standards for nursing, the student may be in jeopardy of failing a course or may be dismissed from the program. There are no accommodations made in the clinical environment based on hospital policy.

*A note about illness and/or injury: Written documentation of complete recovery from any previous injury and/or illness must be provided. If a student is absent for more than 3 days, a note from a medical provider is required to return to class or clinical. Temporarily disability due to injury, surgery, or other condition is reviewed on an individual basis.

The following table lists some of the most common activities that students will perform while working with patients, families, and caregivers in the health care setting.

Students are expected to meet all these parameters to promote patient safety, as well as to meet the course learning objectives. Note: Casts, splints, braces or any assistive devices are not allowed in the clinical setting per policy.

Standard	Description	Standard/Physical Requirement
Mobility	Physical ability, flexibility, strength, stamina	Standard workday requires various abilities including standing for long periods of time, walking, sitting, bending, flexing, lifting, twisting, stooping, kneeling, reaching equipment such as computers, medical devices, hospital beds; be able to perform required functions of patient care; frequently must lift, carry, or move objects weighing up to 40 pounds; occasionally must assist the patient into a position, transfer, or transport requiring lifting in excess of 40 pounds; ability to work in small confined spaces, move quickly to respond to emergencies.

Standard	Description	Standard/Physical Requirement
Motor Skills	Physical ability, coordination, dexterity	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to perform required function of patient care; full range of motion, hand-wrist movement, hand eye coordination, and firm grasping required for fine motor dexterity, manipulation; fine and gross finger dexterity required to perform nursing tasks, nursing skills, procedures, and medication administration in all routes.
Comprehension	Comprehend and process information; perform algebraic and complex calculations	Engage in written and oral directives related to patient care; focusing and remembering information given by faculty/healthcare providers to assimilate and apply to patient care; comprehend and process instructions readily; perform mathematical functions regarding medication administration and taking measurements using tape or ruler.
Tactile	Use of touch	Tactile feeling required; sensitivity required to heat, cold, pain, pressure, etc.
Hearing	Use of auditory sense	Ability to hear and interpret in a noisy environment, with many people and correctly interpret what is heard such as obtaining physician orders whether verbal, over the phone, patient complaints; cries for help, physical assessment including heart sounds, lung sounds, and bowel sounds, doppler, able to hear alarms such as fire alarm, bed alarm, and equipment alarms.
Visual	Use of sight	Acute visual skills necessary to detect signs and symptoms, need depth perception, colors for Point of Care testing, body language of patients/people in the healthcare environment, color of wounds and drainage, possible infections; interpretation of written word accurately; ability to read characters that identify colors on the computer screen, ability to read medication labels and equipment labels, perform procedures.
Critical thinking	Ability to problem solve	Integrate information through critical thinking based on information gathered on patients during clinical sessions, and during class sessions with information appropriately applied to the clinical process. Ability to judge/assess the degree of a situation (acute, critical, urgent, emergency, etc.). Make logical, reasonable decisions, based on experience, common sense, and take reasonable/logical actions.

Standard	Description	Standard/Physical Requirement
Communication	Speak, read, write, use the English language effectively; communicate effectively in interactions with others, verbally, nonverbally, and in written format.	Effectively interacts with the environment and other persons, fluent in English; verbal communication that is easily understood; ability to communicate with diverse people and groups; reading, writing, recording, and documenting critical patient information accurately, is required.
Behavioral	The way in which someone conducts oneself, pertaining to reactions made in response to social stimuli, emotional and mental stability.	Function effectively under stress; demonstrate flexibility, compromise, and concern for others; ability to provide safe nursing care and work in an environment with multiple interruptions, noises, distractions, and unexpected staff and patient needs.

This list of Technical Standards is an example of typical activities that a nurse will perform in a healthcare setting, it is not every activity that a nurse will perform.

By accepting admission in the Associate Degree Nursing Program, you acknowledge that you have read this list, that you can perform the technical standards contained herein.

My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and can perform the technical standards of nursing practice.

Applicant Name (printed) _____

Applicant Signature/Date _____