

REQUIRED TECHNICAL STANDARDS

St. Petersburg College is committed to our policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation.

Within the context of our mission, St. Petersburg College abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other applicable statues and regulations to equality of opportunity. The College of Nursing encourages all qualified individuals to apply for admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

The Technical Standards for the College of Nursing are those attributes and characteristics that involve cognition, skill, and thoughts and feeling. These standards are not used as part of admission, rather, they are identified to provide students with the opportunity to determine if they may need or require some level of accommodation or modification. Once identified, the student will be referred to the appropriate source for accommodation or modification assistance.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES
<p>CRITICAL THINKING (cognitive application)</p>	<p>Critical thinking that demonstrates the application of knowledge, skills, and values learned through previous course work along with sufficient thinking for clinical judgment, thoughts (inductive and deductive), feelings, and behaviors sufficient to manage and implement safe patient care for multiple clients in differing nursing situations, using the nursing process.</p>	<p>Identify cause-effect relationships in varying nursing situations (clinical and otherwise), display ability to concentrate, problem-solve, calculate for dosage and measurements and development of the plan of care. Identify complex problems and reviewing related information, able to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.</p>
<p>INTERPERSONAL SKILLS (valuing and professional skills)</p>	<p>Demonstrates positive interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of backgrounds. Demonstrates respect for self and others, has integrity and is honest, and adheres to professional standards.</p>	<p>Establishes rapport with individuals, families, and groups from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, functions within the discipline of nursing as a member of the profession and a colleague. Demonstrates characteristics of empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATION (oral and written expression, reception, reading)</p>	<p>Communicates effectively and sensitively in written and spoken English, understands and responds effectively to both formal and colloquial English, person to person communication, by telephone, technology or in the written form. Assesses and responds to verbal and non-verbal communication in a clinical environment with individuals, families, and groups.</p>	<p>Initiates health teaching documents, interprets nursing actions, assesses and evaluates client's responses and best methods for providing sufficient health teaching. Fosters a therapeutic milieu and relationship through effective written and verbal communication. Works as a part of the transprofessional team in an effort to manage and coordinate care.</p>

<p>Mobility (locomotion and gross mobility)</p>	<p>Sufficient ability to move from room to room, place to place in a number of physical settings. Able to maneuver in small spaces, around equipment, to assist patients/clients. With care needs. Able to operate equipment, and must be able to lift 50 pounds.</p>	<p>Moves around patient/clients care environments, work spaces, treatment areas, and may administer cardiopulmonary procedures and assist with patient/client mobility and ambulation.</p>
<p>Motor Skills (fine motor skills)</p>	<p>Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to respond to patient/client's needs, manipulate equipment required within a health care setting and implement essential nursing activities.</p>	<p>Ability to use specific nursing equipment (ex. IV pumps, blood pressure machines, accucheck meters, etc.) that may require fine motor calibration and manipulation of dials, switches, and knobs. Ability to assist patients/clients with positioning.</p>
<p>Sensory Acuity (includes hearing, vision and tactile ability)</p>	<p>Corrected auditory and visual acuity to be able to hear and see verbal and emergency signals in an effort to respond to emergency situations. Able to discriminate different sounds from physical assessment in an effort to recognize changing condition, able to effectively respond to members of the health care team. Tactile ability sufficient to perform physical assessment and engage in skills performance.</p>	<p>Responds to alarms, patient/clients requests for assistance (use of call bells), emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help, tape recorded transmissions, oral report, other auditory and visual stimuli and ability to read small print of medication packaging, properly and safely prepare and administer medications and treatments. Tactile ability sufficient to function in therapeutic interventions such as catheter insertion, IV starts, etc.</p>
<p>Safety (includes observation of change)</p>	<p>Manages and maintains and environment that is safe for the individual, family, groups and health care personnel. Follows prescribed guidelines for safety within the organization or nursing situation. Recognizes and responds to safety issues in a timely manner, able to recognize emergency situations and takes</p>	<p>Responds to patient's and clients changing health conditions through effective observation, maintains an environment that is safe and promotes a safety culture (including safety relating to mechanical, electrical, thermal, chemical, radiologic, and bio-hazardous threats), follows policies and procedures for administering professional</p>

	appropriate actions.	nursing care.
Stability	Possess the psychological health for full use of abilities and responds to others in a collegial manner. Maintains a mature, sensitive, and effective relationship with patients/clients, families, other students, faculty, and members of the health care team under all circumstances, including those situations that are highly stressful.	Able to carry out the responsibilities of a Registered Nurse that can often be taxing and stressful. Stressful issues can include human suffering, threats to personal safety, disagreements, and need for collaboration. Must be able to work as a member of the health care team, discipline of nursing, and provide professional nursing care for a group of patients in a variety of clinical and nursing situations. Has the ability to cope with the stresses of the role of nurse and caregiver.

No list can ever be inclusive and this list of technical standards is no different. Nursing is a complex and engaging profession that requires a number of different skills and attributes. Additional resources on the role of a nurse and specific skills that may be expected of a nurse can be located within the skills textbook associated with the course of study. Students or potential students that would like additional information of skills for nursing can be directed to the nursing office or individual course instructor.

References (June 26, 2014):

1. Details Report for: 29-1141.00 Registered Nurses. O*Net Online (US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration), 2014. <http://www.onetonline.org/link/details/29-1141.00#Abilities>
2. Essential Functions – Technical Standards for Admission. Center for Allied Health Programs, University of Minnesota, 2014. <http://cahp.umn.edu/essential-functions-cls>