

# TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND GRADUATION

## Technical Standards for Admission and Graduation

The curricula of the School of Nursing requires that students engage in diverse and complex experiences directed at achieving competencies, knowledge, skills, attributes, and professional values. Applicants for all academic programs, and enrolled degree-seeking students, must possess certain abilities and skills deemed essential for meeting the professional standards of accrediting agencies.

The School of Nursing is committed to diversity and to attracting and educating students who will make the population of healthcare professionals' representative of the national population. We actively collaborate with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and create a respectful accountable culture through our confidential and specialized disability support. We are committed to excellence in accessibility; we encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations.

The School of Nursing provides the following technical standards to inform incoming and enrolled students of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the nursing curriculum and provide effective and safe health care. To matriculate (enroll) the student must meet technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations and maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards for progression through the program. We wish to ensure that access to our facilities, programs, and services are available to students with disabilities. The university provides reasonable accommodations to students on a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments ACT (ADAAA) of 2008, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Questions or concerns regarding these technical standards should be directed to the Associate Dean for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs (410) 955-7545.

Candidates for nursing degrees or certificates must be able to meet the standards (listed below) with or without reasonable accommodation:

**Observation:** Students must have sufficient capacity to make accurate observations and interpret them in the context of laboratory studies, medication administration and patient care activities. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Overall, they must be able to effectively monitor, assess and respond to health needs.

**Communication:** Students must accurately elicit or interpret information: medical history and other information to evaluate adequately a client or patient's condition. Students must be able to record information clearly and accurately interpret verbal and nonverbal communication to patients and the health care team. They must be able to communicate effectively in teams. Students must be able to determine a deeper meaning or significance in what is being expressed. They also must be able to connect with others to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions. They must be able to interact effectively with the health-care team and maintain accurate clinical records on patient care.

**Clinical Skills:** Students are required to possess motor skills sufficient to independently elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other manually-based diagnostic procedures. Students should be able to conduct laboratory and diagnostic tests and carry out physical assessments. Students must possess motor skills required for their specialty's scope of practice. The student must also be able to coordinate fine and gross muscular movements to treat patients in emergency situations. Emergency situations include any circumstance requiring immediate remedy.

**Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** The student must be able to develop and refine problem-solving skills that are critical to practice as a nurse. The student must have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize objective and subjective data and to make decisions that reflect consistent and sound clinical judgment. Students must possess good judgment in patient assessment, and the abilities to incorporate new information, comprehend three-dimensional relationships, and retain and recall pertinent information in a timely fashion. This includes decision-making in order to maintain safety and security of patients and to behave appropriately with patients, staff, students, supervisors and faculty.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Students must possess the physical and emotional health required for the application of their intellectual abilities and the employment of sound judgment in an appropriate and prompt manner. Students must be able to function effectively under physically taxing workloads in both classroom and clinical settings, and in times of physical and mental stress. Students must display compassion, sensitivity, and concern for others, and maintain professional integrity at all times. Students must be able to adapt to changing environments; display flexibility; accept and integrate constructive criticism and learn to function cooperatively and efficiently in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice. This includes appropriately interacting with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.

**Program Specific Requirements:** In addition to the areas enumerated above, applicants and students must also possess any abilities and skills deemed essential for their particular program. These areas of enumerated skills and abilities are the minimum attributes required of applicants for admission to the specific nursing program and of students who are candidates for graduation.