

## Technical Standards and Essential Functions for Nursing

All nursing majors at Stockton University should be able to perform the following skills and behaviors:

### Sensory:

**Visual Acuity** - must be able to sufficiently observe and assess using visual abilities – which include, but are not limited to:

- See drainage on dressings and drainage of body fluids Assess fluid levels in collection devices, syringes, etc. Distinguish color intensity
- Read gauges that monitor patient progress Observe changes in patient skin color Assess movements of patients
- Draw up correct quantities of medication in a syringe

**Auditory** – must be able to use auditory ability to monitor and assess health needs – which includes, but is not limited to:

- Hear normal speech level sounds
- Hear and interpret information a patient is communicating verbally Hear heart and lung sounds using a stethoscope
- Hear auditory signals and alarms from technical equipment Hear cries for help
- Communicate over the telephone

**Tactile** – must possess the ability to perform a physical assessment using tactile procedures – which includes, but is not limited to:

- Feel differences in surface characteristics
- Palpate to assess texture, shape, size, temperature, and vibration Detect anatomical abnormalities such as edema and nodules Percuss body organs for signs of abnormalities

**Sense of Smell** - must be able to detect odors that may indicate a change in a client's condition or an environmental hazard – which includes but is not limited to:

- Detect an infected wound
- Detect ketones on a patient's breath
- Detect body fluids that have a strong or unusual odor Detect smoke, gases, or other noxious smells
- Detect alcohol breath

**Communication:** Effective written and oral communication in English is necessary for effective communication with clients, families and members of the health care team – which includes but is not limited to:

- Explain treatment procedures Health teaching and counseling
- Documentation of nursing care with client/family responses Read patient documentation and medical literature Accurately report patient information
- Recognize and respond to urgent or emergent situations

**Motor Function:** Students must have sufficient motor function, neuromuscular strength and coordination to effectively perform client care activities. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Transfer, turn, and lift clients
- Push, pull, lift and support 25 lbs. Manipulate life support devices
- Use diagnostic instruments for physical assessments Perform CPR
- Apply pressure to stop bleeding
- Manipulate diagnostic and life support devices Administer medications by all routes
- Maintain balance, reach above shoulders, reach below waist Stoop and squat

**Gross and Fine Motor Coordination:** in order to provide safe and effective nursing care, the student must be able to carry out the following. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Move about in limited patient care environments Perform a variety of treatments and procedures Calibrate and use equipment
- Write with a pen/pencil and use keyboard
- Must possess stamina to sit, stand, move within classrooms, labs, acute nursing units, operating rooms, emergency rooms, community settings, and long term care facilities for as long as required.

**Behavioral:** The establishment and maintenance of appropriate professional relations is a required component of effective performance. In order to be successful, the student must be able to exhibit the following – (examples are not limited to behaviors listed.)

- Relate to colleagues, staff, clients and families with honesty, integrity and non-discrimination.
- Adhere to the highest professional standards as prescribed by the American Nurses' Association Scope and Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics.
- Exercise sound clinical judgment Be compassionate

- Develop mature, sensitive and effective client relationships Complete all responsibilities required in client care
- Seek help when needed through consultation with other health care team members
- Apply absolute safety practices in all instances Prioritize competing demands

**Emotional Health:** Student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual and cognitive ability which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Function in stressful circumstances
- Tolerate physically taxing workloads, on occasion Adjust to a dynamic environment
- Negotiate conflict situations
- Function as a fully involved team member Establish therapeutic boundaries
- Provide emotional support for client and family Monitor and exhibit insight regarding own emotions

**Cognitive Ability:** Student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, comprehend, analyze, integrate and synthesize materials in the context of undergraduate nursing study. Must be able to quickly read and comprehend sensitive written material, engage in critical thinking, clinical reasoning and evaluate and apply information in both the classroom and clinical settings.