

PENINSULA COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Students are required to meet the Technical Standards for admission and continuation in the nursing program.

Introduction

Certain functional abilities are essential for the delivery of safe, effective nursing care. These abilities are essential in the sense that they constitute core components of nursing practice, and there is a high probability that negative consequences will result for patient/clients under the care of nurses who fail to demonstrate these abilities. A program preparing students for the practice of nursing must attend to these essential functional abilities in the education and evaluation of its students.

This statement of the Technical Standards of the nursing program at Peninsula College identifies the functional abilities deemed by the nursing faculty to be essential to the practice of nursing. Reference material used in the development of these standards include the Washington Nurse Practice Act, The Functional Abilities Essential for the Delivery of Safe, Effective Nursing Care (a descriptive research study conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing), and Core Components and Competencies of ADN graduates (developed by the Council of Associate Degree Nursing of the National League for Nursing). The Technical Standards are reflected in the nursing program's performance-based outcomes, which are the basis for teaching and evaluating all nursing students.

Consistent with its mission and philosophy, the Nursing Program at Peninsula College is committed to providing educational opportunities to students with disabilities. In accordance with the American Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Nursing Program provides reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified students with disabilities. The decision regarding appropriate accommodations will be based on the specifics of each case.

Students with disabilities who think they may require accommodation in meeting the Technical Standards of the nursing program should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to discuss the process of identifying reasonable accommodations. Students should seek accommodation advising as soon as possible so that a plan for accommodation can be in place at the beginning of the program. Applicants seeking admission to the nursing program who may have questions about the Technical Standards and appropriate reasonable accommodations are invited to discuss their questions with Services for Students with Disabilities. Reasonable accommodation will be directed toward providing an equal educational opportunity for students with disabilities while adhering to the standards of nursing practice for all students.

Qualifications

The practice of nursing requires the following functional abilities with or without reasonable accommodations.

1. **Visual acuity** sufficient to assess patients and their environments and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Detect changes in skin color or condition
- Discriminating between abnormal and normal color of body fluids or exudates.
- Collect data from recording equipment and measurement devices used in patient care
- Detect a fire in a patient area and initiate emergency action
- Draw up the correct quantity of medication into a syringe
- Read fine print such as medication and equipment labeling.

2. **Hearing ability** sufficient to assess patients and their environments and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Detect sounds related to bodily functions using a stethoscope
- Detect audible alarms within the frequency and volume ranges of the sounds generated by mechanical systems that monitor bodily functions
- Communicate clearly in telephone conversations
- Communicate effectively with patients and with other members of the health care team

3. **Olfactory ability** sufficient to assess patients and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Detect foul odors of bodily fluids or spoiled foods
- Detect smoke from burning materials

4. **Tactile ability** sufficient to assess patients and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Detect changes in skin temperature
- Detect unsafe temperature levels in heat-producing devices used in patient care
- Detect anatomical abnormalities, such as subcutaneous creptitus, edema, masses, or infiltrated intravenous fluid.
- Palpate pulses.

5. **Strength, mobility and balance** sufficient to perform patient care activities and emergency procedures.

Examples of relevant activities:

- Safely transfer patients in and out of bed
- Safely ambulate patients.
- Turn and position patients as needed to prevent complications due to bed rest
- Hang intravenous bags at the appropriate level
- Accurately read the volumes in body fluid collection devices hung below bed level
- Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation

6. **Fine motor skills** sufficient to perform psychomotor skills integral to patient care

Examples of relevant activities:

- Safely disposes of needles in sharps containers
- Accurately place and maintain position of stethoscope for detecting sounds of bodily functions
- Manipulate small equipment and containers, such as syringes, vials, ampules, and medication packages, to administer medications

7. **Physical endurance** sufficient to complete assigned periods of clinical practice

8. **Ability to communicate** sufficiently to teach others, explain procedures, interact effectively with others, and convey information in writing.

This includes:

- Ability to speak, comprehend, read and write in English at a level that meets the need for accurate, clear, and effective communication.
- Ability to read, interpret and communicate using proper medical terminology.

9. **Emotional stability** to function effectively under stress and emergency situations, to adapt to changing situations, to follow through on assigned patient care responsibilities and to withstand human trauma and its effects.

10. **Cognitive ability** to collect, analyze, and integrate information and knowledge to make clinical judgments and manage decisions that promote positive patient outcomes. This includes:

- Analytical thinking sufficient to transfer knowledge from one situation to another, problems solve, prioritize tasks and use long-term and short-term memory.

Peninsula College Nursing Program
Technical Standards

Checklist for Technical Standards

Check to verify that you meet the Technical Standards	Technical Standards
	Visual Acuity
	Hearing Ability
	Olfactory Ability
	Tactile Ability
	Strength, mobility and balance
	Fine motor skills
	Physical endurance
	Ability to communicate
	Emotional stability
	Cognitive ability

I, _____, (applicant name) meet the Technical Standards as defined above. I understand the Nursing Program reserves the right to require that applicants and nursing students provide healthcare provider (MD, DO, ARNP, PA, ND) verification of the ability to meet Technical Standards on request.

Applicant signature: _____

Date: _____