



Nursing Programs Technical Standards

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

South Plains College’s Associate Degree Nursing Program and Vocational Nursing Program has established technical standards and essential functions for the program. The ability to meet these standards and essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, is required in order to satisfactorily complete the program.

The college does not discriminate in admission or access to programs on the basis of any characteristic protected by law, including disability. Persons with disabilities are eligible for admission, as long as they can carry out classroom and laboratory assignments; pass written, oral and practical examinations; and meet all of the requirements of the program and generally accepted requirements of the profession, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Disability & Accommodations Services: If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive support services and/or accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the program. Reasonable accommodations for students with disability related needs will be determined on an individual basis taking into consideration the technical standards and essential skills which must be performed to meet the program objectives. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Student Disability Services 806-716-4675 (Reese/ATC/Plainview) or 806-716-2577 (Levelland).

Requirements	Standards	Examples
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	Ability to learn and reason: to integrate, analyze and synthesize data concurrently. Students must have the ability to solve problems rapidly, consider alternatives and make a decision for managing or intervening in the care of a client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Able to make effective decisions in the classroom and in clinical settings, to new situations and problem solving, scenarios, reflective of classroom learning. ▪ Develop and contribute to nursing care plans that accurately reflect client concerns. ▪ Able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize.
Communication	Oral communication skills sufficient to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the healthcare team,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the

	<p>including non-verbal communications, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language.</p>	<p>healthcare team and participate in healthcare team discussions of patient care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elicit and record information about health history, current health state and responses to treatment from patients or family members. ▪ Convey information to patients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner. ▪ Recognize and report critical patient information to other caregivers. ▪ Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language. ▪ Receive, write, and interpret written communication in both academic and clinical settings.
<p>Motor Skills/Tactile</p>	<p>Sufficient gross and fine motor skills to provide complete physical assessments and safe effective care for patients.</p> <p>Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health care needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrate adequate coordination, balance, speed and ability to assist and safely guard patients who are walking or performing other activities. ▪ Move, adjust, position and transfer patients or equipment. ▪ Able to provide emergency treatment to patients. ▪ Ability to lift up to 50 pounds. ▪ Able to stand for long periods of time (6-8 hours). ▪ Possess finger and manual dexterity necessary to manipulate equipment and perform patient care procedures such as starting IVs, dressing

		<p>changes, and identify calibrations on syringes.</p> <p>Tactile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to feel vibrations (pulses), palpate veins for cannulation and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature.
Observation	.Ability to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercise, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess and comprehend the condition of all patients assigned to him/her for examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Such observation and information requires functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensations.	<p>Visual (corrected as necessary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Able to visually discriminate increment readings on syringes, sphygmomanometers and other various medical equipment. ▪ Assess skin color (cyanosis, pallor) and visually discriminate different colored objects. ▪ Assess the environment from a distance. <p>Auditory (corrected as necessary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond to normal speaking level sounds, even under personal protective equipment (PPE). ▪ Distinguish between normal and abnormal lung and heart sounds, evaluate blood pressure. ▪ Respond to auditory alarms such as monitors, fire alarms, and patient call bells, in a quick and safe manner. <p>Smell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to detect odors from patient (foul smelling drainage, alcohol breath), and smoke.
Technological	Ability to perform basic computer, software, editing, internet and browsing skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Locating, opening, closing uploading and downloading files. ▪ Use of word processor to create, edit and save documents. Toggling between applications.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of internet browser and search engines for specific topics.
Interpersonal Skills	Emotional stability and appropriate behavior sufficient to assume responsibility/accountability for actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate emotional skills to remain in a composed respectful manner in all situations, emergency/stressful situation, and with all persons, while adapting rapidly to changing environment/stress. • Respect, deliver care and establish rapport with patients, instructors and colleagues regardless of appearance, condition, beliefs, values, race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation or diagnosis. • Exhibit ethical behaviors, exercise good judgment, establish and maintain therapeutic boundaries.
Professional Conduct	Ability to reason morally and practice nursing in an ethical manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to learn and abide by professional standards of practice. • Attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility and tolerance. • Ability to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and ability to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, individuals with disabilities, medically compromised patients and vulnerable adults.