

Technical Standards for the CCRI Nursing Student

Department of Labor Classification: Moderate

The Department of Nursing at the Community College of Rhode Island does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or protected military status, in any of its activities or operations.

CCRI Nursing Faculty have determined that candidates for associate nursing degrees or practical nursing diplomas must be able to meet the following minimum technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations for successful completion of program requirements. Technical Standards are defined as functional ability requirements of the nursing student that are necessary to deliver safe and effective nursing care. The nursing student must demonstrate all of the technical standards with reasonable accommodation to meet the minimum level of required activity to care safely for patients. The Technical Standards listed below identify the skills and behaviors required to successfully complete the nursing program and safely prepare the student for the practice of nursing. The National Council of the State Boards of Nursing has delineated the following functional abilities that a nurse must possess to practice safely and effectively in the clinical setting.

General Observational Skills:

- Ability to see and distinguish colors, hear, touch, and smell
- Ability to utilize data obtained by the senses and further integrate, analyze and synthesize such data accurately
- Ability to perform health assessments and interventions; obtain diagnostic specimens; and obtain data from digital and analog representations to assess patient status
- Sufficient visual acuity to administer medications, detect alterations in patient status, and identify changes in skin color, and wound characteristics
- Sufficient auditory ability to detect sounds related to bodily functions or mechanical equipment alarms
- Sufficient tactile abilities to distinguish temperature alterations related to the patient condition or equipment malfunction, and the ability to assess edema and/or abnormal skin masses

Gross Motor/ Fine Motor Skills:

- Adequate motor function to execute movements required to provide safe general care and management of patients in all healthcare settings

- Fine motor skills sufficient to obtain assessment data by palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers
- Physical endurance sufficient to complete an 8-12 hour assignment and manage a suitable patient assignment
- Mobility sufficient to carry out patient-care procedures, patient treatments, administration of medications, operation of medical equipment, emergency procedures and lifting (safe patient handling)
- Strength sufficient to carry out emergency activities (CPR), safe patient handling and fall intervention/prevention

Communication:

- Ability to speak and write with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, families and all members of the healthcare team
- Ability to elicit and record patient data regarding health history, current health status and response to patient care interventions
- Ability to sufficiently convey information to patients, families and members of the healthcare team, encompassing the ability to teach, direct and counsel
- Ability to utilize computerized technology to document, obtain the results of laboratory and diagnostic studies, and remain informed of the medical-care progression and maintenance

Intellectual, Conceptual, and Quantitative:

- Ability to learn, think critically, analyze, assess, problem-solve and reach reasoned judgements
- Ability to problem-solve utilizing measurement, calculation, reasoning, analyzing and synthesizing both objective and subjective data to make accurate decisions, in exigent circumstances, that reflect consistent and thoughtful consideration and sound clinical judgement for laboratory and diagnostic interpretation
- Ability to assess data, develop a plan of care, prioritize, and monitor treatment modalities
- Sufficient cognitive skills to calculate medications
- Sufficient conceptual ability to analyze and synthesize data to implement a plan of care
- Quantitative ability to assess data, prioritize need and anticipate outcomes
- Ability to comprehend spatial relationships to accurately administer parenteral medications or assess varying degrees of wound management

Social Attributes:

- Ability to demonstrate compassion, integrity, and motivation

- Ability to demonstrate responsibility, accountability, and good judgment.
- Ability to establish rapport with patients, families and all members of the healthcare team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
- Ability to adapt to changing and stressful environments, and to accept and integrate constructive criticism and function cooperatively and efficiently in the uncertainties inherent in clinical practice

All students admitted to the Community College of Rhode Island will be measured by consistent academic standards. Regardless of disability and reasonable accommodations, a student must be successful in all courses and master all essential competencies.

Individuals unable to meet these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, will not be able to complete the program and are counseled to pursue alternate careers.

3/5/2019

Approved by E. Canning 3.7.19