CERRITOS COLLEGE ADN PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Technical standards are functional abilities that are essential for the delivery of safe and effective nursing care. These standards are necessary in that they constitute core components of nursing practice and are essential to the practice of nursing. They include cognitive, communication, interpersonal, motor and sensory abilities that are necessary for the provision of nursing care. The Cerritos College Nursing Program has identified those technical standards considered to be essential to the practice of nursing. These technical standards are reflected in course learning outcomes and clinical evaluation tools. They are continuously evaluated at all levels of the program.

The technical standards delineated below are necessary for progression in the program, graduation and the provision of safe and effective nursing care.

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<tr>
<th>Technical Standards (Essential Functions)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Examples of Activities (not all-inclusive)</th>
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</table>
| Cognitive Ability                        | • Critical-thinking ability sufficient for collecting, analyzing and integrating information and knowledge in order to make safe clinical judgments and decisions that promotes positive patient outcomes | • Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations  
• Develop and implement nursing interventions  
• Evaluate care and patient response to care  
• Demonstrate problem solving skills in patient care situations  
• Use sound judgment and safety precautions  
• Organize and prioritize patient care  
• Implement evidenced based nursing interventions |
| Communication Ability                    | • Ability to communicate effectively in English with patients, families and other health care | • Communicate effectively with patients, families and other members of the healthcare team |

Includes critical thinking, clinical judgment and problem solving skills.
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| providers verbally and in writing        | • Ability to read and comprehend English | • Provide patient teaching  
• Provide explanations  
• Understand communicated patient information  
• Provide ongoing verbal report  
• Document accurate patient information  
• Interact and establish rapport with individuals, families and groups from diverse populations  
• Engage in therapeutic communication  
• Maintain patient confidentiality in spoken and written communications |
| Behavioral/Interpersonal Skills          | • Emotional stability to function under stress and adapt to changing situations in a safe, effective and therapeutic manner | • Maintain composure in clinical and classroom environments  
• Respond appropriately to emergency situations  
• Display caring attitude |
| Visual Ability                           | • Visual acuity sufficient for observation and assessment of patients and their environment in the provision of nursing care | • Observation of patients responses to care and their environment  
• Detect changes in skin color or condition  
• Assess and measure drainage and bodily fluids  
• Detect fire and initiate emergency measures |
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<td></td>
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<td>• Read medication labels, draw up and read syringe volumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditory Ability</td>
<td>• Hearing ability sufficient to assess patients and their environments.</td>
<td>• Detect cries for help  • Detect sounds related to bodily functions by auscultation with a stethoscope  • Detect audible alarms within the frequency and volume ranges of the sounds generated by the monitoring equipment  • Communicate clearly by telephone  • Communicate effectively with patients, families and other members of the healthcare team</td>
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<td>Tactile Ability</td>
<td>• Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and intervention.</td>
<td>• Detect changes in skin temperature  • Palpate both superficially and deeply and to discriminate tactile sensations  • Detect safe temperature levels of hot and cold applications  • Perform functions of physical exam  • Perform therapeutic interventions such as insertion of a catheter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olfactory Ability</td>
<td>• Olfactory ability sufficient to assess</td>
<td>• Detect foul or unusual odors of bodily fluids, wounds and food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strength and Mobility</td>
<td>patients and their environment.</td>
<td>• Detect smoke</td>
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|                                          | • Strength and mobility sufficient to perform patient care activities and emergency procedures. | • Demonstrate proper body mechanics  
• Safely transfer patients in and out of bed/chairs  
• Turn and position patients  
• Lift up to 25 pounds without assistance  
• Lift and move heavy patients and equipment with assistance  
• Ability to walk, stand and bend over in the course of providing nursing care  
• Move around in patient rooms, work spaces and treatment areas  
• Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation |
| Motor Skills                              | • Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe and effective care in a timely manner. | • Ability to quickly intervene for patient safety  
• Safely manipulate syringes and dispose of needles  
• Manipulate vials, ampules, medication packaging  
• Administer medications  
• Calibrate and use equipment |
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| Physical Endurance                      | - Physical endurance to complete assigned tasks and patient care during clinical practice  
                                - Ability to attend and participate in lecture and skills lab activities | - Ability to work 8-12 hour shifts on am or pm clinical rotations  
                                - Ability to complete patient care assignment in a timely manner  
                                - Ability to attend 2-4 hours lectures  
                                - Ability to work in skills lab for 2-4 hours/week |

| Environmental Tolerance                 | - Ability to work in the healthcare environment. | - Ability to adapt and work in congested work space, artificial lighting, and air conditioning  
                                - Tolerate noise  
                                - Work safely in an environment that includes respiratory and blood borne pathogens  
                                - Able to wear protective masks, gowns, gloves  
                                - Able to tolerate offensive odors, body fluids and functions |

Individuals with disabilities are welcome to apply to the Cerritos College Nursing Program. However, students must be able to perform certain technical standards for nursing practice. Students with documented disabilities, that are otherwise qualified for admission, must contact the Disabled Student Programs (DSPS) and request reasonable accommodation where appropriate. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by (DSPS) to determine if a reasonable accommodation can be made. While the college is committed to providing accommodation, it does not guarantee success in the nursing program.