

Nursing Program Technical Standards

Introduction

Technical standards are all of the nonacademic functional abilities essential for the delivery of safe, effective nursing care. These basic abilities make up the core components of nursing practice, and there is a high probability that untoward consequences may result for clients cared for by nurses who fail to demonstrate these abilities. In compliance with state and federal laws, nursing education programs must attend to these essential functional abilities in the teaching and evaluation of students preparing for the practice of nursing.

This statement of technical standards identifies the functional abilities deemed by the Nursing Faculty at the University of New England to be essential to the practice of nursing, and as such

Hearing ability must be of sufficient acuity to assess patients and their environments and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments. Examples of relevant activities (nonexclusive):

- Detect sounds related to bodily functions using a stethoscope
- Detect audible signals generated by mechanical systems that monitor bodily functions
- Communicate clearly in telephone conversations
- Communicate effectively with patients and with other members of the healthcare team

Olfactory ability must be adequate to assess patients and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments. Examples of relevant activities (nonexclusive):

- Detect foul odors of bodily fluids or spoiled foods
- Detect smoke from burning materials
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Tactile ability must be sufficient to assess patients and to implement the nursing care plans that are developed from such assessments. Examples of relevant activities (nonexclusive):

- 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, or infiltrated intravenous fluid
- Perform techniques such as the insertion of urinary catheters

Strength and mobility must be sufficient to perform patient care activities and emergency procedures. Examples of relevant activities (nonexclusive):

- Safely transfer patients in and out of bed and assist them with ambulation using appropriate assistive devices
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Physical endurance sufficient to complete assigned periods of clinical practice and to function effectively under stress in acute health care situations.