

**NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA**  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING**  
**ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

The education of a healthcare professional requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills and development of judgment through patient care experiences in preparation for semi-autonomous and collaborative practice, and making appropriate decisions required in such practice. Professional healthcare practice emphasizes collaboration among all healthcare professionals and the patient. In order to function adequately as a professional and progress as a nursing student in the clinical nursing program at Northwestern State University College of Nursing (CON), students must possess each of the following skill sets which are essential to meeting required **academic performance and technical standards**.

Possession of the outlined skills (noted below) are required in order to meet CON standards and demonstrate competence in a discipline as complex as nursing and thus are needed for successful admission and progression by students for the ASN, BSN, MSN, and DNP degrees within the College of Nursing at NSU. In addition to the standards of student conduct set forth in the **NSU Code of Student Conduct**, students must demonstrate competency in the skills which are foundational to meeting each of the **Essential Academic Performance and Technical Standards** within the College of Nursing.

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Students should be able to:

- Communicate effectively in English (via verbal and written means) with patients, family members, physicians, and all members of the health care team.
- Read and comprehend quickly written instructions to deliver appropriate patient care.
- Process and communicate information regarding the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team.
- Willingly receive and provide feedback.
- Make a judgment when assistance is needed in a timely manner.

### **COGNITIVE SKILLS**

Students should be able to:

- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in the context of undergraduate or graduate professional nursing study.
- Read and comprehend extensive written materials including instructions, test results, and histories.
- Apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.
- Engage in self-directed learning.

### **SENSORY (HEARING AND VISION) SKILLS**

Students should be able to:

- Hear sufficiently to interact with patients and medical staff when background noise is present.
- Detect audible sounds within the hospital, such as equipment alarms, fire alarms, telephones ringing, and overhead pages.
- Visually monitor patients in low levels of light.
- Observe patients accurately, at a distance and close at hand.
- Appreciate non-verbal communications when performing assessments and/or administering treatments/interventions.
- Distinguish between different shades of color on litmus paper or other testing device.
- Perceive signs of disease, infection, or discomfort manifested through physical examination.

### **MOTOR SKILLS**

Students should be able to:

- Manipulate equipment (locks, push buttons, knobs, and switches) using fine motor skills.
- Safely push a wheelchair, stretcher, or other transport equipment from a patient waiting area or patient room to other parts of the facility.

- Safely transfer a patient from a wheelchair or stretcher to the bed or exam table.
- Raise arms above head and in all directions to manipulate equipment.
- Stand and walk for extended periods of time (up to 12 hours).
- Lift ten (10) pounds of weight above head.

## CLINICAL SKILLS

Students should be able to perform:

- Perform all aspects of CPR and Basic Life Support.
- Leveled clinical and assessment skills.
- Diagnostic reasoning (graduate students only).

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Students should be able to:

- Function effectively and respectfully under stress.
- Maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances, including high stress situations.
- Respond appropriately to constructive criticism.
- Work collaboratively with peers, faculty, and other healthcare professionals.
- Minimize behavioral gestures that indicate dissatisfaction, disrespect or any negative attitude.
- Adapt to environments that change rapidly without warning or in unpredictable ways.
- Practice in an ethical manner.
- Learn and abide by professional standards of practice.
- Engage in patient care delivery in all settings and able to deliver care to all patient populations as required.
- Demonstrate compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance in any given situation.
- Arrive timely to the clinical and classroom setting.
- Respond appropriately to constructive criticism without failing to maintain professional behavior.

Clinical faculty will evaluate students on a regular and ongoing basis, addressing deficits and areas in need of improvement by means of a program-specific clinical evaluation tool, based on direct and indirect interaction and supervision of the student in the clinical setting during clinically related activities.

**Students who violate the *Essentials of Academic Performance and Technical Standards* will be placed on a learning contract and/or probation; failure to consistently comply may result in dismissal from the nursing program.**

## Reasonable Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities at 318-357-4460. Students with disabilities are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. The University will work with the student to provide, if possible, reasonable accommodations; however, it is important to note we are not required to provide requested accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential qualifications, functions, technical standards, or other academic requirements of the program, or result in an undue financial or administrative burden.

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Applicant's Signature

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Date

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Print Applicant's Name

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CWID

Revised: (NEED Original date here), 2016