

Technical Standards for All Nursing Students

Technical Standards for Students in the Nursing Major

The Frances M. McLaughlin Division of Nursing (DON) of Bloomfield College is committed to producing lifelong learners who excel in their careers and are recognized as leaders in their field. The DON Technical Standards for Core Professional Nursing Competency Performance (“Technical Standards”) are an integral part of the DON academic requirements that identify core professional nursing competencies in five specific domains- Communication, Observation, Cognitive, Motor, and Professional Attitudes. Nursing students must meet all the requirements of the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations, in order to successfully progress through and graduate from the nursing program. These requirements apply to all settings including lab/clinical and classroom settings. Students applying to the DON are encouraged to review the Technical Standards requirements for completing the program of study.

All DON students must review the Technical Standards, sign the acknowledgement page, and return the document to the DON, at 74 Oakland Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey, 07003 upon entering the nursing program.

Reasonable Accommodations for Qualified Students with Disabilities

The DON is committed to providing educational opportunities to qualified students with disabilities to afford such students the opportunity to complete the nursing program. A “qualified student with a disability” is one who, with or without reasonable accommodations, meets the DON academic requirements and Technical Standards. Qualified students with a disability who require accommodation must seek reasonable accommodations through the Office of Student Disabilities (OSD). The OSD determines qualified disability status and assists students in obtaining appropriate accommodations. The OSD determines these accommodations on a case- by- case basis. A request for accommodations may be made at any time, but may not be implemented retroactively. The DON is not required to provide accommodations that fundamentally alter or waive essential program requirements.

Technical Standards Competency Domains

1. **Communication Competencies:** The Technical Standards for communication include the ability to communicate with a wide variety of individuals.

Rationale: Effective communication is necessary to provide safe, high quality patient care in all healthcare settings.

Students must be able to speak, hear, and observe in order to elicit information from patients, families/significant others, health team members, faculty, peers, of diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds, examine patients, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and to perceive non-verbal communication. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing in English. They must also be able to communicate sensitively, effectively, and efficiently in oral and written form, in the professional nursing practice setting as well as the academic setting.

2. **Observation Competencies:** The Technical Standards for Observation include meaningful participation in the classroom and clinical activities, interviewing skills, and accessing electronic, web-based and simulation information.

Rationale: Nursing student observation competencies include the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary to provide quality and safe care to patients in all healthcare settings.

Students must be able to use and interpret information using diagnostic tools (i.e. sphygmomanometer, otoscope, stethoscope, EKG, IV's) to assess and evaluate physiologic conditions. Students must be able to discern signs and symptoms of disease, pain, infection and changes in patients' condition and safety concerns during a comprehensive or focused physical assessment, both in the live and clinical simulated situations.

3. **Cognitive Competencies:** The Technical Standards include the ability to demonstrate cognitive abilities in connection with the other identified nursing student competencies.

Rationale: Nursing student Cognitive Competencies include demonstrating the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary to provide quality and safe care to patients in all healthcare settings.

Students must be able to accurately follow course syllabi, assignment directions, patient protocols, and any action plan developed by faculty, staff and administrators, or health care agency staff. Students must demonstrate cognitive abilities related to course and program outcomes that indicate the student is able to carry out the nursing process. Students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize subjective and objective data to carry out the nursing process in a prompt and timely fashion.

4. **Motor Competencies:** The Technical Standards include the ability to demonstrate motor abilities in connection with the other identified nursing student competencies.

Rationale: Nursing student Motor Competencies include demonstrating the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary to provide quality and safe care to patients in all healthcare settings.

Students must possess fine and gross motor movements to facilitate physical examination (Palpation, Auscultation, Percussion). They must have functional use of the senses of touch, vision and hearing. Students should have sufficient endurance to perform required patient care duties including moving and transferring patients, navigating patient rooms and operating equipment (i.e. manual BP, IV pumps) typically found in a health care environment. Students must be able to perform CPR and respond to emergencies in a timely manner.

5. **Professional Competencies:** The Technical Standards include the ability to demonstrate professional abilities in connection with the other identified nursing student competencies.

Rationale: Nursing student Professional Competencies include demonstrating the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary to provide quality and safe care to patients in all healthcare settings.

Students must possess the emotional stability required for full utilization of intellectual abilities. Students must be able to tolerate physical and mentally taxing workloads and adapt to changing environments. Students must exercise good judgment for effective patient, work and academic relationships in a diverse health care environment. Students must complete all patient responsibilities in a timely manner. Students must show compassion, integrity, honesty and concern for others. Students must be appropriately attired and prepared for all clinical work.