

Valparaiso University
College of Nursing and Health Professions
Essential Functional Eligibility Requirements for Nursing

Students enrolled in the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs are expected to participate fully in activities required by the program. Should the student require any type of special accommodation, the student must notify the Disability Officer when beginning the program. No accommodation will be provided without official documentation of disability. Standard types of accommodations for the didactic classroom portion of courses i.e. extra time for testing and different environments will be provided with appropriate documentation from the Disability Officer. Requests for accommodations in the clinical setting must be made when making application to the nursing program in order to assure that the student is able to meet the essential eligibility requirements as outlined in this document.

It is essential that nursing students be able to perform a number of physical activities in the clinical portion of the program. At a minimum, students will be required to lift patients, stand for several hours at a time and perform bending activities. Students who have a chronic illness or condition must be maintained on current treatment, have documentation of this treatment, and be able to implement direct patient care with no restrictions. The clinical nursing experience places students under considerable mental and emotional stress as they undertake responsibilities and duties impacting patients' lives. Students must be able to demonstrate rational and appropriate behavior under stressful conditions to remain in the program. Individuals should give careful consideration to the mental and physical demands of the program prior to making application.

Essential Skills and Functional Abilities for Nursing Students

Individuals enrolled in Valparaiso University nursing programs must have the following abilities and skills that are derived from clinical objectives. A student must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner without the use of a surrogate. To function effectively and safely the student must be able to independently do the following:

Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities: BSN	Examples of Required Activities: MSN	Examples of Required Activities: DNP
<p>Cognitive/Conceptual/Quantitative Abilities</p> <p>Critical thinking and clinical judgment are essential abilities of the professional nurse. These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, and analysis and synthesis. • Gather data, to develop a plan of action, establish priorities and monitor and evaluate treatment plans and modalities within timeframe of patient care experience. • Comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships. • React effectively in an emergency situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate appropriate medication dosage given specific patient parameters. • Analyze and synthesize data and develop an appropriate plan of care within time frame allotted. • Collect data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions. • Comprehend spatial relationships, adequate to properly administer injections, start intravenous lines or assess wounds of varying depths. • Recognize an emergency situation and respond effectively to safeguard the patient and other caregivers. • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another. • Accurately process information on medication containers, physicians' orders; perform calculations; read and make notations on printed documents, flow sheets, graphic sheets, medication administration records, computer files, and other medical records; follow policy and procedure manuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct and evaluate student calculation of appropriate medication dosages, analysis and synthesis of data, and development of plans of care within time frame allotted. • Collect data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions. • Comprehend spatial relationships, adequate to properly administer injections, start intravenous lines or assess wounds of varying depths. • Recognize an emergency situation and respond effectively to safeguard the student, patient, and other caregivers. • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another. • Accurately process information on medication containers, physicians' orders; perform calculations; read and make notations on printed documents, flow sheets, graphic sheets, medication administration records, computer files, and other medical records; follow policy and procedure manuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pharmacologic plan of care including appropriate drug selection and dosage. • Collect data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions. • Comprehend spatial relationships, adequate to conduct complete physical examinations and minor office procedures. • Recognize an emergency situation and respond effectively to safeguard the patient, family, and other caregivers. • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another. • Accurately process and document information within patient medical records; follow policy and procedure manuals. • Complete expected activities within timeframe of the clinical experience.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete expected activities within timeframe of the patient care experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete expected activities within timeframe of the clinical experience. 	
Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities: BSN	Examples of Required Activities: MSN	Examples of Required Activities: DNP

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate in English with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the health care team (including spoken and non-verbal communication, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language). • Required communication abilities include speech, sight, hearing, reading, writing, language skills, and computer literacy. • Communicate professionally and civilly to healthcare team members including peers, instructors, and preceptors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team; participate in health care team discussions of patient care. • Elicit and record information about health history, current health state and responses to treatment from patients or family members within timeframe of the patient care experience. • Convey information to clients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner. • Establish and maintain effective working relations with patients and coworkers. • Recognize and report critical patient information to other appropriate caregivers and supervisors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give verbal directions to students and/or other members of the healthcare team' participate in verbal interactions with other members of the health care team. • Evaluate students' performance in eliciting and recording information about health history, current health state, and responses to treatment within timeframe of the patient care experience. • Convey information to students, clients, and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner. • Establish and maintain effective working relations with patients and coworkers. • Recognize and report critical patient information to other appropriate caregivers and supervisors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team; participate in health care team discussions of patient care. • Elicit and record information about health history, current health state, and responses to treatment from patients or family members within timeframe of the patient care experience. • Convey information to clients and others as necessary to teach, direct, and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner. • Establish and maintain effective working relations with patients and coworkers. • Recognize and report critical patient information to other appropriate health care providers.
Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities: BSN	Examples of Required Activities: MSN	Examples of Required Activities: DNP

Behavioral/ Interpersonal/ Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate to colleagues, staff and patients with honesty, civility, integrity and non-discrimination. • Capacity for development of mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationships. • Interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with individuals, families and groups from various social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. • Work constructively in stressful and changing environments with the ability to modify behavior in response to constructive criticism. • Demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the professional nursing and student codes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with patients and colleagues. • Work with teams and work groups. • Display emotional skills sufficient to remain calm in an emergency situation. • Demonstrate behavioral skills reflective of good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. • Accept responsibility for own actions. • Adapt rapidly to environmental changes and multiple task demands. • Maintain behavioral decorum in stressful situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with students, patients and colleagues. • Work with teams and work groups. • Display emotional skills sufficient to remain calm in an emergency situation. • Demonstrate behavioral skills reflective of good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. • Accept responsibility for own actions. • Adapt rapidly to environmental changes and multiple task demands. • Maintain behavioral decorum in stressful situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with patients and colleagues. • Work with teams and work groups. • Display emotional skills sufficient to remain calm in an emergency situation. • Demonstrate behavioral skills reflective of good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. • Accept responsibility for own actions. • Adapt rapidly to environmental changes and multiple task demands. • Maintain behavioral decorum in stressful situations.
Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities: BSN	Examples of Required Activities: MSN	Examples of Required Activities: DNP

<p>Safe environment for patients, families, and co-workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately identify patients. • Effectively communicate with other caregivers. • Administer medications safely and accurately within the timeframe of the patient care experience. • Operate equipment safely in the clinical area. • Recognize and minimize hazards that could increase healthcare associated infections. • Recognize and minimize accident hazards in the clinical setting including hazards that contribute to staff, patient, family and co-worker falls and other injuries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize tasks to ensure patient safety and standard of care. • Maintain adequate concentration and attention in patient care settings. • Seek assistance when clinical situation requires a higher level of expertise. • Respond to monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patients, and orders in a rapid and effective manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize tasks to ensure patient safety and standard of care. • Maintain adequate concentration and attention in patient care settings. • Seek assistance when clinical situation requires a higher level or different type of expertise. • Respond to monitor alarms, emergency signals, and orders in a rapid and effective manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize tasks to ensure patient safety and standard of care. • Maintain adequate concentration and attention in patient care settings. • Seek assistance when clinical situation requires a higher level or different type of expertise. • Respond to acute changes in patient conditions in a rapid and effective manner.
<p>Motor Abilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical abilities and mobility sufficient to execute gross motor skills, physical endurance, and strength, to provide patient care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate mobility sufficient to carry out patient care procedures such as assisting with ambulation of patients, administering CPR, assisting with transferring, turning and lifting patients, providing care in confined spaces such as treatment room or operating suite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate mobility sufficient to carry out patient care procedures such as assisting with ambulation of patients, administering CPR, assisting with transferring, turning and lifting patients, providing care in confined spaces such as treatment room or operating suite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate mobility sufficient to conduct a detailed physical examination, including special assessment techniques, and clinical procedures within the limited space of an office examination room.

Functional Ability	Standard	Examples of Required Activities: BSN	Examples of Required Activities: MSN	Examples of Required Activities: DNP
Manual Dexterity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine motor skills sufficient for providing safe nursing care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate motor skills sufficient to handle small equipment such as insulin syringe and administer medications by all routes, perform tracheostomy suctioning, insert urinary catheter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate motor skills sufficient to handle small equipment such as insulin syringe and administer medications by all routes, perform tracheostomy suctioning, insert urinary catheter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate motor skills sufficient to handle small equipment such as otoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, speculum, and perform special physical assessment techniques.
Perceptual/Sensory Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory/perceptual abilities to monitor and assess patients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display sensory ability to hear alarms, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help. • Possess visual acuity to read calibrations to 0.1 cc on a 1 cc syringe and assess color. • Demonstrate tactile ability to assess pulses and temperature and palpate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display sensory ability to hear alarms, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help. • Possess visual acuity to read calibrations to 0.1 cc on a 1 cc syringe and assess color. • Demonstrate tactile ability to assess pulses and temperature and palpate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display sensory ability to identify and differentiate auscultatory sounds and hear cries for help. • Possess visual acuity to examine the middle ear and conduct a dilated eye exam. • Demonstrate tactile ability to assess pulses and temperature and palpate.