

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
School of Health Sciences
Nursing Program

Policy # M-1. Technical Standards and Essential Functions for Nursing Students
Effective: October 1, 2013
Policy Review: May 2015

1. All nursing majors at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey should be able to complete the following skills and behaviors:

- **Sensory:** **Visual Acuity** - must be able to sufficiently observe and assess using visual abilities – which include, but are not limited to:

See drainage on dressings and drainage of body fluids
Assess fluid levels in collection devices, syringes, etc
Distinguish color intensity
Read gauges that monitor patient progress
Observe changes in patient skin color
Assess movements of patients
Draw up correct quantities of medication in a syringe

Auditory – must be able to use auditory ability to monitor and assess health needs – which includes, but is not limited to:

Hear normal speech level sounds
Hear and interpret information a patient is communicating verbally
Hear heart and lung sounds using a stethoscope
Hear auditory signals and alarms from technical equipment
Hear cries for help
Communicate over the telephone

Tactile – must possess the ability to perform a physical assessment using tactile procedures – which includes, but is not limited to:

Feel differences in surface characteristics
Palpate to assess texture, shape, size, temperature and vibration
Detect anatomical abnormalities such as edema and nodules
Percuss body organs for signs of abnormalities

Sense of Smell - must be able to detect odors that may indicate a change in a client's condition or an environmental hazard – which includes but is not limited to:

Detect an infected wound
Detect ketones on a patient's breath
Detect body fluids that have a strong or unusual odor
Detect smoke, gases, or other noxious smells
Detect alcohol breath

- **Communication:** effective written and oral communication in English is necessary for effective communication with clients, families and members of the health care team – which includes but is not limited to:

Explain treatment procedures
Health teaching and counseling
Documentation of nursing care with client/family responses
Read patient documentation and medical literature
Accurately report patient information
Recognize and respond to urgent or emergent situations

- **Motor Function:** student must have sufficient motor function, neuromuscular strength and coordination to effectively perform client care activities. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Transfer, turn, lift clients
Push, pull, lift and support 25 lbs
Manipulate life support devices
Use diagnostic instruments for physical assessments
Perform CPR
Apply pressure to stop bleeding
Manipulate diagnostic and life support devices
Administer medications by all routes
Maintain balance, reach above shoulders, reach below waist
Stoop and squat

- **Gross and Fine Motor Coordination:** in order to provide safe and effective nursing care, the student must be able to carry out the following. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Move about in limited patient care environments
Perform a variety of treatments and procedures
Calibrate and use equipment
Write with a pen/pencil and use keyboard
Must possess stamina to sit, stand, move within classrooms, labs, acute nursing units, operating rooms, emergency rooms, community settings, and long term care facilities for as long as required

- **Behavioral:** The establishment and maintenance of appropriate professional relations is a required component of effective performance. In order to be successful, the student must be able to exhibit the following – (examples are not limited to behaviors listed.)

Relate to colleagues, staff, clients and families with honesty, integrity and non-discrimination.

Adhere to the highest professional standards as prescribed by the American Nurses' Association Scope and Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics.

Exercise sound clinical judgment

Be compassionate

Develop mature, sensitive and effective client relationships

Complete all responsibilities required in client care

Seek help when needed through consultation with other health care team members

Apply absolute safety practices in all instances

Prioritize competing demands

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- **Emotional Health:** Student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual and cognitive ability which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Function in stressful circumstances

Tolerate physically taxing workloads, on occasion

Adjust to a dynamic environment

Negotiate conflict situations

Function as a fully involved team member

Establish therapeutic boundaries

Provide emotional support for client and family

Monitor and exhibit insight regarding own emotions

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- **Cognitive Ability:** Student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, comprehend, analyze, integrate and synthesize materials in the context of undergraduate nursing study. Must be able to quickly read and comprehend sensitive written material, engage in critical thinking, clinical reasoning and evaluate and apply information in both the classroom and clinical settings.
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