

**Admissions, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs**  
**Operating Policy and Procedure**

**SON OP 60.025 - Technical Standards for Nursing Education**

**PURPOSE** To provide guidance to students and faculty about the necessary activities that a nursing student must be able to perform.

**REVIEW** The OP shall be reviewed by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each even numbered year (ENY), with recommendation for revision forwarded to the Dean of the School of Nursing. Final approval of the OP is provided by the Dean.

**POLICY/PROCEDURE**

TTUHSC OP 51.04 and TTUHSC OP 77.14 complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state and local requirements regarding students with disabilities. Under these laws, no otherwise qualified and competitive individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs and activities of TTUHSC solely on the basis of the disability. ADA guidelines apply to all qualified persons. A qualified person is a person with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services, or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity and who can perform the “essential functions” of the position. For further information, contact the Office of Student Disability Services or visit their website located at <https://www.ttuhschool.edu/disability/default.aspx>

**Technical Standards for the School of Nursing**

Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective and social abilities are required in unique combinations to provide safe and effective nursing care. In order to be admitted and to progress in the nursing program, one must possess a functional level of ability to perform the duties required of a nurse. The applicant/student must be able to meet the essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation’s throughout the program of learning. Admission, progression and graduation are contingent upon one’s ability to demonstrate the essential functions as identified by the school or additional essential functions as may be identified by affiliated clinical agencies. The TTUHSC School of Nursing reserves the right to amend the essential functions as deemed necessary.

Each student/applicant should use the following standards for participation in the School of Nursing to assist in determining the necessity of accommodation or modifications.

<p><b>MOTOR SKILLS</b></p> <p>The student should have sufficient motor functions such that they are able to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings.</p>	<p><b><i>Specific Requirements:</i></b></p> <p>Students should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpitation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment techniques. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional uses of the senses of touch, vision and hearing.</p> <p>The student must be able to perform basic life support (including CPR), transfer and position patients, and position and re-position self around patients. The student must also be able to operate equipment typically found in the health care environment (IV pumps, cardiac monitor, and electric and manual blood pressure equipment, safe patient handling equipment, etc.).</p>
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<p><b>SENSORY/OBSERVATION:</b></p> <p>The student must be able to acquire information presented through demonstration and experience in the basic and nursing sciences.</p>	<p><b>Specific Requirements:</b></p> <p>The student must be able to observe the patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessments and interventions or administering medications.</p> <p>The student must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. Such information may be derived from visual inspection and images of the body surfaces, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and auditory information (patient voice, heart tones, bowel and lung sounds, etc.)</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>The student must have the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family and other professionals.</p>	<p><b>Specific Requirements:</b></p> <p>The student must be able to express his or her ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback.</p> <p>The student must be able to convey or exchange information at a proficiency level to obtain a health history, identify problems presented, explain alternative solutions, and give directions during treatment and post-treatment.</p> <p>The student must be able to effectively communicate in English through verbal, written and electronic formats with the ability to retrieve information from various sources of literature and computerized data bases.</p> <p>The student must able to communicate verbally in English in classroom presentations, seminars, simulation, practicum sites, practicum conferences, and on-line formats. The student must be able to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team.</p> <p>The appropriate communication may also rely on the student's ability to make a correct judgment seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.</p>
<p><b>COGNITIVE:</b></p> <p>The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, prioritize, analyze, integrate, synthesize information and act with integrity and judgment (ability to manage impulsivity).</p> <p>The student must have the ability to sustain attention and memory to maintain patient safety.</p>	<p><b>Specific Requirements:</b></p> <p>The student must be able to read and comprehend extensive written materials. The student must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom, lab and clinical setting within the time constraints unique to each setting.</p>

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<b>BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL:</b>	<b><i>Specific Requirements:</i></b>
<p>The student must possess the emotional health required for the utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the nursing care of patients and families.</p>	<p>The student must be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances, including highly stressful situations. They must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.</p> <p>The student must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. They must know how their own values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect their perceptions and relationships with others.</p> <p>The student must be able and willing to examine their behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships.</p> <p>The student must possess skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and work environments.</p> <p>The student must be able to meet TTUHSC School of Nursing attendance requirements. The student must be able to satisfy all requirements set forth by the School of Nursing and Health care agency's affiliation agreements as well as any additional requirements of any clinical setting.</p> <p>The student must uphold professional nursing standards related to the student's scope of practice.</p>

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