

Creighton University College of Nursing

Safety and Technical Standards Form – Return to Class/Clinical

Creighton University is committed to admitting qualified students without regard to race, color, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or religion.

To ensure students in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical areas meet the cognitive, affective and psychomotor requirements of the curriculum, with or without reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The College of Nursing has identified specified essential abilities (technical standards) critical to the success of students enrolled in any Creighton University nursing or paramedicine program. These standards are designed to establish performance expectations that will enable students to provide safe patient practice, with or without reasonable accommodations. Qualified applicants and students are expected to meet all these essential abilities (technical standards) with or without reasonable accommodations.

Students are required to complete the Safety and Technical Standards form for admission to the College of Nursing. Students failing to respond to each of the questions will be unable to progress in the program until it is completed.

Any evidence of a possible inability to meet the safety and technical standards may be cause for further evaluation. Such evidence may become available through the visual observations, communication from students, or communication from advisors/faculty. Further evaluation may entail an interview or a physical examination, or both, by healthcare providers (e.g., psychologist, etc.) of our choice.

The technical standards that have been identified as necessary to meet nursing and paramedicine curriculum technical standards requirements include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

General Abilities

To provide quality nursing or paramedicine care the student is expected to possess functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, taste and smell. All data received by the senses must be integrated, analyzed and synthesized in a consistent and accurate manner. The student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. In addition, the individual is expected to possess the ability to perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, equilibrium and movement.

Observational Ability

The student is expected to be able to observe the patient/client holistically to accurately assess any health/illness alterations. Inherent in this observation process is the functional use of the senses and sufficient motor capability to carry out the necessary assessment activities.

Communication

The student is expected to be able to effectively communicate and receive communication, both verbally and non-verbally. This requires the ability to see, speak, hear, read, write, and effectively utilize the English language. A student must be able to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Motor Ability

The student is expected to be able to perform gross and fine motor movements required to provide holistic nursing or paramedicine care. Examples of care that the student must be able to perform include turning, transferring, transporting, and exercising the patients/clients. The student is expected to have the psychomotor skills necessary to perform or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medications, and emergency interventions. Examples of emergency interventions reasonably required of nurses or paramedics are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of parenteral medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, and the suctioning of obstructed airways. A student must also be able to protect the patients in emergency situations such as in the event of a fire. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the sense of touch, hearing, and vision. The student is expected to be able to maintain consciousness and equilibrium and have the physical strength and stamina to perform satisfactorily in clinical nursing or paramedicine experiences.

Intellectual - Conceptual Ability

The student is expected to have the ability to develop problem solving skills and demonstrate the ability to establish care plans and set priorities. This includes the ability to measure, calculate, analyze, and synthesize objective as well as subjective data and make decisions that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation of the appropriate data. The student is expected to be able to listen, speak, read, write, reason, and perform mathematical functions at a level which allows the student to process and understand the materials presented (in both a written and a verbal format) throughout his or her course of study.

Behavioral/Social Attributes

The student is expected to have the emotional stability to fully utilize his/her intellectual abilities, exercise sound judgment, complete assessment and intervention activities, and develop sensitive interpersonal relationships with patients/clients, families, and others responsible for health care. The student is expected to have the flexibility to function effectively under stress; that is, the individual is expected to be able to learn to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Concern for others, integrity, accountability, interest and motivation are necessary personal qualities.

