

# NURSING

## CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

### 2024-2025



This document outlines the technical expertise, physical demands and communication skills required for nursing students. Clinical, lab, and instructional environments will include, but are not limited to, the following standards.

ISSE	STANDARD	AS EVIDENCED BY (including but not limited to)
<b>Critical Thinking Ability</b>  ____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.  ____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.  ____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations.</li> <li>Develop nursing care plans, evaluate the plan of care and revise as appropriate.</li> <li>Analyze and use assessment findings to plan and implement care for clients and families.</li> <li>Use relevant data to support the decision-making process.</li> <li>Identify priorities of care based on analysis of data.</li> <li>Manage and respond to multiple priorities in stressful situations.</li> <li>Respond instantly to emergency situations.</li> <li>Exhibit arithmetic competence that would allow the student to read, understand and perform calculations for computing dosages</li> <li>Solve problems and make valid rational decisions using logic, creativity, and reasoning.</li> </ul>
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>  ____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.  ____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.  ____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*	Interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish rapport (relationship) with clients/colleagues.</li> <li>Maintain therapeutic relationships with clients and colleagues.</li> <li>Respect cultural diversity and the rights of others.</li> <li>Work effectively in small groups as a team member and as a team leader</li> <li>Practice verbal and non-verbal therapeutic communication</li> <li>Recognize adverse events and attempt to resolve for both client and colleague.</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional Stability</b>  ____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.  ____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.  ____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*	Emotional stability sufficient to tolerate rapidly changing conditions and environmental stress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish therapeutic interpersonal boundaries.</li> <li>Provide clients with emotional support.</li> <li>Adapt to changing environment and stress while maintaining professional conduct and standards without displaying hostility, agitation, rudeness or belligerence.</li> <li>Poses no threat to self or others.</li> <li>Perform potentially stressful tasks concurrently.</li> <li>Able to effectively deal with exposure to trauma, grief, or death.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Emotional Stability</b></p> <p>___ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>___ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>___ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Communication abilities sufficient for interaction in verbal, written, electronic format.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write and speak English effectively so as to be understood by general public.</li> <li>• Communicate therapeutically with clients, families, and groups in a variety of settings.</li> <li>• Document client data and nursing care completely and accurately use correct medical terminology.</li> <li>• Obtain health history information from client/family.</li> <li>• Interpret nonverbal cues and behaviors.</li> <li>• Provide health teaching information for clients, families, and/or groups based on assessed needs, available resources, age, lifestyle and cultural considerations.</li> <li>• Remember multiple messages and information</li> <li>• Communicate to all interdisciplinary team members and family/client.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical Ability</b></p> <p>___ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>___ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>___ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.</p> <p>Maintain physical tolerance for repetitive movements and demands of the work assignment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift a minimum of 25 lbs. of weight.</li> <li>• Lift, move, position, and transport clients without causing harm, undue pain, or discomfort to the client or one's self.</li> <li>• Transport mobile equipment in a timely and safe manner.</li> <li>• Exhibit physical mobility and strength sufficient to propel wheelchairs, stretchers, equipment, etc. through doorways and close-fitting areas alone.</li> <li>• Move around in client's room, workspaces and treatment areas, in all clinical settings Stand, walk for the duration of a work assignment (may be 12 hr shift).</li> <li>• Stoop, bend, squat, reach overhead as required to safely reach equipment, and provide nursing care in emergent and non-emergent care.</li> <li>• Safely assist with ambulation of a client.</li> <li>• Navigate stairs.</li> <li>• Maintain client's dignity and personal space at all times.</li> <li>• Sit in class for prolonged periods of time for lectures and test.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gross &amp; Fine Motor Skills</b></p> <p>___ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>___ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>___ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform physical activities necessary to do basic fundamental nursing skills, including but not limited to: putting on sterile gloves, donning mask and gown, operating a manual and electronic blood pressure cuff, sterile technique and other essential fundamental nursing skills.</li> <li>• Perform correct hand washing technique and behaviors.</li> <li>• Provide or assist with activities of daily living such as bed bath, hygiene, toileting, positioning clients, making an occupied and unoccupied bed.</li> <li>• Manipulate instruments, supplies, and equipment with speed, dexterity, precision, strength, coordination and adequate eye-hand coordination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctly prepare and administer oral and parenteral medications to maintain client safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Perform electronic keyboarding/documentation and/or extensive writing with a pen and/or pencil</li> <li>• Maintain and safely operate orthopedic device such as traction equipment, casts,</li> </ul>

		<p>and assistive devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures.</li> <li>• Calibrate and use equipment (i.e. syringes, vials, ampoules and medication packages, manual blood pressure cuff, don sterile gloves, etc.) Grasp small objects with hands (e.g. IV tubing, pencil). Pinch/pick or otherwise work with finders (e.g. manipulate a syringe, eye dropper, etc.) Twist (turn objects/knobs using hands).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Auditory Ability</b></p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear monitor alarm, emergency signals, ringing phones, telephone interactions and cries for help.</li> <li>• Distinguish sounds with background noise ranging from conversational levels to high pitch sounding alarms.</li> <li>• Perceive and receive verbal communication from clients and members of the health team.</li> <li>• Tolerate occasional exposure to loud and unpleasant noises.</li> <li>• Hear and understand communication without visualization of the communicator's mouth/lips within 20 feet.</li> <li>• Hear and distinguish changes in tone and pitch when listening to a client's respiratory, cardiac, and abdomen auditory characteristics when using a stethoscope.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Visual Ability</b></p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for safe client care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform basic nursing skills such as insertion of a catheter, insertion of an IV, counting respirations, preparing and administering medications.</li> <li>• Observe client responses (level of consciousness, respirations patterns) and recognize subtle physical changes.</li> <li>• Read small print, gauges, thermometers, measuring cups, syringes, and other equipment.</li> <li>• Discriminate colors, changes in color, size, and continuity of body part.</li> <li>• Accurately identify, prepare, and administer medications.</li> <li>• Identify hazards in the environment (safety rails, restraints, water spills and harmful situations).</li> <li>• Correctly visualize written words and information on paper and on a computer screen.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tactile Ability</b></p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctly perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention.</li> <li>• Don and wear gloves and other protective devices while accurately performing physical assessment.</li> <li>• Correctly perform skills that require tactile sensation.</li> <li>• Accurately palpate for pulses, temperature, texture, hardness or softness, and landmarks.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Olfactory Ability</b></p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM NOT capable of meeting these requirements.</p> <p>____ I AM capable of meeting these requirements with accommodations.*</p>	<p>Olfactory ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for safe client care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize environmental odors and dynamic monitoring of various disease processes, infections, etc.</li> </ul>
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Applicants and students will receive our Core Performance Standards policy prior to admission to program and declare accommodations based on meeting the expected standards. There are no exemptions. If any changes occur in your physical or mental condition that interferes with class, lab or clinical activities while enrolled in the nursing program, you must notify the dean and/or program coordinator immediately.

If you are unable to meet all of the Core Performance Standards and need accommodations, please contact Tracy Dibble, OCTech's coordinator for services for students with disabilities, at 803-535-1225 or [dibblet@octech.edu](mailto:dibblet@octech.edu). It is important that you contact her prior to the first day of class or within the first two weeks of class for determination of reasonable accommodations.

I have read the Core Performance Standards for the nursing program and attest to my ability to function in the healthcare environment, providing safe patient care in a professional manner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's/Student Signature/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name