



The University of Vermont
COLLEGE OF NURSING
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Department of Nursing Technical Standards

The University of Vermont Department of Nursing provides the following sample description/examples of technical standards to inform incoming and enrolled students of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the nursing curriculum and provide effective and safe healthcare.

A candidate for a nursing degree must possess abilities and skills which include those that are observational, auditory, tactile, communicational, motor, intellectual-conceptual (integrative and quantitative), behavioral, and social.

These technical standards are key components of the nursing academic program and must be met with or without accommodations. The Department of Nursing recognizes that our partnering clinical site locations may also maintain their own technical standards.

Observational, auditory, and tactile:

- Ability to interpret data obtained through physical and observational examination and integrate, analyze, and synthesize said data in a consistent and accurate manner.
- Ability to perceive/appreciate pain, pressure, temperature, position, vibration, and movement that are important in gathering information to effectively evaluate patients.
- Capacity to make accurate observations and interpret them in the context of laboratory studies, medication administration, and patient care activities.
- Ability to document observations and maintain accurate records.

Communication Ability:

- Communicate effectively to elicit information and to translate that information to others.
- Ability to facilitate communication with patients, their family members, and other healthcare professionals.
- Maintain accurate patient records, present information in a professional, logical manner and provide patient counseling and instruction to effectively care for patients and their families.
- Effectively communicate with instructors and students in both classroom and clinical settings.

Motor Ability:

- Ability to perform complete physical examinations utilizing the techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- Possess the psychomotor skills to perform or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medication, management and operation of diagnostic and therapeutic medical equipment, utilization of Personal Protective Equipment for infection control, and other elements of holistic patient care.
- Demonstrate safe performance and ability to participate in scenarios involving long periods of engagement within the clinical and classroom settings, including administering CPR if necessary.

Intellectual-Conceptual (Integrative and Quantitative) Abilities:

- Seek assistance and guidance when required and fully understand the limits of the student nurse.
- Analyze and synthesize objective and subjective data, making decisions in a timely manner and accurate manner within and fast paced clinical environment.

- Incorporate new information from peers, teachers, scientific literature to ensure sound judgement in patient assessment, intervention, evaluation, education, and setting of care goals.
- Exercise appropriate judgment with analysis of situations and anticipation of consequences to maintain safe patient care.

Behavioral and Social Attributes:

- Maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients/patients, families, students, faculty, staff, preceptors and other professionals at all times.
- Exhibit emotional maturity that enables full engagement in safe care to patients and participate effectively with peers, faculty, and other health care professionals.
- Care for individuals in a respectful, sensitive, and effective manner regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other status identified in the University's Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy and Our Common Ground.
- Adapt to and function effectively in stressful situations in both classroom and clinical settings, including emergency situations.
- Demonstrate compassion, integrity, concern for others, and effective interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrate interest and motivation in providing health care and interacting with the health care team and faculty.
- Abide by the American Nurses Association [Code of Ethics for Nurses](#)