Additional Information for MSN-E Applicants

Technical and Professional Standards for Nursing Practice

Nursing education requires not only the accumulation of scientific knowledge, but also the simultaneous acquisition of technical skills and professional attitudes and behavior. Nursing school faculties have the responsibility to society to matriculate and graduate the best possible nurses, and thus admission to nursing school has been offered to those who qualified for the study and practice of nursing. Technical standards presented in this document are prerequisite for admission and graduation from the College of Graduate Nursing at Western University of Health Sciences. Graduates of the CGN must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care services. All courses in the curriculum are required in order to develop the essential skills necessary to become a competent nurse.

There are essential functions or abilities necessary for admission and progression in the College of Graduate Nursing program at Western University of Health Sciences. The candidate must be able to perform all of the essential functions (with or without accommodations). The College of Graduate Nursing follows the Western University nondiscrimination policy, and students requesting accommodations should contact the Center for Disability Issues and Health Professions (CDIHP) at (909) 469-5297. These essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

Observation (sensory): Candidates must be able to accurately observe patients and demonstrations close up and at a distance to learn skills and to gather patient data (e.g., observe a patient’s gait, appearance, posture, etc.). Candidates also must possess functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. Observation is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

Communication: Candidates must have the ability to communicate orally and in writing with patients, families, groups and other members of the healthcare team, as well as faculty and peers. Candidates must also be able to effectively interpret communication of others. Candidates also must be able to read and comprehend written material.

Psychomotor Skills: Candidates must have sufficient motor function to perform nursing tasks and to obtain data from patients using tactile, auditory and visual maneuvers. Candidates must be able to execute motor movements to provide required general nursing care as well as emergency treatments.

Mobility and Stamina: A student must possess sufficient gross and fine motor skills and endurance to provide safe and effective nursing care in all health care settings. Students must have the ability to: perform basic life support, including CPR; function in an emergency situation; safely assist a patient in moving (e.g., from wheelchair to commode, from chair to bed, lift and transfer from gurney to bed); calibrate and use equipment; perform treatments and procedures; apply pressure to stop bleeding; manipulate diagnostic instruments to adequately perform all aspects of a physical assessment; and sit, stand and move about in patient environments for 12 hour periods.

Tactile: A student must have sufficient tactile ability to perform a physical assessment of a patient and to perform procedures necessary for nursing care. Students must have the ability to: perform palpation and other functions necessary for a physical exam; assess texture, shape, size and vibration; note temperature changes in skin and equipment; perform therapeutic functions (e.g., inserting a urinary catheter or IV, change dressings, give medications).
**Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:** Candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, integrate and apply information in making clinical judgments. Problem-solving, a clinical skill required of nurses, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates must be able to comprehend 3-D relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Candidates must possess the emotional health required to use their intellectual abilities fully. This may be demonstrated by exercising good judgment, promptly completing all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and aggregates, and developing mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, families and other health-care workers as well as faculty and peers. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties and ambiguities.

**Ethical Standards:** A candidate must demonstrate the ability to reason morally and practice nursing in a professional and ethical manner with patients, families, and other health care workers as well as with faculty and peers.

**Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities**
Students must be able to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without accommodation. A student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation will be referred to the CDIHP. The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability for the purposes of determining appropriate accommodations. The College of Graduate Nursing will provide reasonable accommodations, but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program. A student with questions regarding reasonable accommodation can contact the CDIHP office. Please see the Western University Catalog for more information.

**Clinical Background Checks**

To meet state and hospital accreditation requirements, hospital facilities are requiring students to complete criminal background checks prior to beginning rotations. Because of this new regulation to assure patient safety, all admitted students will be required to complete a criminal background check prior to matriculation. Certain convictions may prevent students from entering the hospital facilities which may hinder a student’s ability to successfully complete the MSN-E program. If a criminal conviction is shown on the background check, the hospital facilities will have discretion as to whether the individual may enter the clinical facility as a nursing student.

Certain convictions may also prevent students from obtaining RN licensure in the state of California. Please visit the California Board of Registered Nursing website at [www.rn.ca.gov](http://www.rn.ca.gov) for more information about background checks required for RN licensure.

Upon acceptance of admission to the MSN-E program, applicants will be given the necessary information for completing the required criminal background check. Please contact the College of Graduate Nursing if you have questions about this requirement.

I, _____________________________, hereby acknowledge that I have read the above document and I understand my responsibility in maintaining my position as an applicant. I understand the above term and agree to abide by them.

___________________________  ______________________
Signature                                      Date