



College of Graduate Nursing All Nursing Programs

Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation

A candidate for admission to the College of Graduate Nursing program must possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, certain intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities, that would enable the individual to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below throughout their progression in the College of Graduate Nursing program. Graduate Nursing requires the performance of specific essential functions, which include but are not limited to the broad skills categories defined below.

For candidates or students who require a reasonable accommodation in order to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy/Accommodation and Resource Center (CDHP/AARC) at (909) 469-5297.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation:

Computer Literacy

Students are expected to have basic computer literacy skills prior to enrollment. Students should demonstrate skill in basic word processing, Microsoft applications (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), use of the Internet, e-mail, and on-line literature searches. Students will be expected to meet Basic Computer Competencies, Information Literacy, and Clinical Information Management competencies as outlined in the [TIGER \(Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform\) initiative](#).

Intellectual Skills

In addition to essential academic content and performance skills, each course requires learning activities that foster intellectual skill development for critical thinking and decision making as well as oral and written communication.

Technical Guidelines for Nursing Practice (Pre-licensure)

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 a responsibility to society to matriculate and graduate the best possible nurses. Admission to nursing school has been offered to those most qualified for the 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 pre-licensure curriculum are required in order to develop the essential skills necessary to become a competent nurse.

Observation (sensory)

Candidates must be able to 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 interpret communication of others. Candidates also must be able to read and comprehend written materials.

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 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 special 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.