

Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards

An applicant seeking admission to the nursing programs at Southeastern Community College must meet the Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards required for the safe delivery of nursing care to the public. According to the nature of the work required in nursing practice and the educational requirements of the nursing programs curricula, students must be able to meet these standards as defined for admission and successful progression through the nursing programs. The standards established are in compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

The practice of nursing requires that members of the discipline have the cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor skills necessary to provide safe and effective nursing care to the public. Nursing students and nursing faculty should possess and be able to demonstrate the following Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards (examples are not all inclusive):

Standards	Examples of Necessary Abilities (not all inclusive)
Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment in all healthcare environments, including emergent situations.	Identify cause and effect relationship in clinical situations; develop nursing care plans/concept maps.
Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport with clients, families, and colleagues.
Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	Collect assessment data. Explain treatment procedures. Initiate health teaching, document teaching. Interpret and document nursing actions and client and family responses.
Physical abilities sufficient to stand for long periods of time, move from room to room, and maneuver in small spaces.	Move around in client's room, workspaces and treatment areas; administer cardio-pulmonary procedures; able to lift/maneuver 50/>100 pounds.
Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.	Move, calibrate, use equipment and supplies; lift, transfer, and position mobile and immobile clients.
Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hears monitor alarm, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help.
Visual ability sufficient for physical assessment, performance of nursing procedures and maintenance of environmental safety.	Observes client responses, such as skin color and facial expressions. Monitors vital signs. Reads records.
Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and performance of nursing procedures.	Perform palpitation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention (e.g., catheter insertion)
Emotional stability and mental alertness in performing client care.	Maintaining a calm and efficient manner in high stress/pressure situations with clients, families, staff, supervisors, and colleagues

If a student feels that they cannot meet one of more of these standards without accommodations or modifications, the college must determine, on an individual basis, whether the necessary accommodations or modifications can be reasonably made without placing the public at risk. More detailed information regarding standards is provided in the handbook.

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Certification of Ability to Meet the Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards

I certify that I am in good health and that I am both physically and emotionally able to withstand the rigors and stress of the nursing program.

I have read the Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards for nursing students and I feel that I can meet the standards as described. If at any time, after admission to or progression within the nursing programs, I *cannot* meet the Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards, I will immediately notify the Director of Nursing. I acknowledge the necessity of this notification requirement in order to protect the individuals that are under my care as a student.

I understand that Southeastern Community College maintains no healthcare facilities and offers no college-paid healthcare insurance for its students. The responsibility for any medical services or costs incurred as a student rest with me and my parents/guardians/or head of household. This includes any care due to accidents or illnesses incurred while functioning in the role as a student nurse. I understand that if I am not currently insured as a rider on an existing policy, I am strongly encouraged to carry my own healthcare insurance.

Student with Disabilities

Southeastern Community College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in application, admission, or access to its programs, services, or activities or individuals who meet the Essential Criteria, Functions, and Abilities Standards requirements. The college will provide reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities of individuals who are otherwise eligible to receive or participate in college programs, services, or activities.

The Executive Vice President/Chief Academic Officer is designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirement contained in the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Information concerning provision of the ADA and the rights provided thereunder are available from the ADA counselor located in the Student Services department. The ADA counselor is provided to assist students in requesting disability-related accommodations.

Individuals who want to receive reasonable accommodations for a disability should make this request known to the ADA counselor. Individuals accompanied by a personal assistant while on campus must provide the ADA counselor with documentation that includes sufficient reason related to medical/physical need for the assistance.

Student Signature

Date