

Abilities and Tasks Required for Nursing Program

Required Academic Abilities for Nursing Program and Practice: The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is dedicated to the equality of educational opportunity and the creation and maintenance of a campus environment free of barriers which discriminates against individuals with disabilities. Equality of access is achieved through reasonable classroom accommodations and reasonable adaptation of examination and evaluation procedures. In the same vein, becoming a nurse requires the completion of a professional education program that is both intellectually and physically challenging. A student in the nursing program should be able to fully perform the essential functions in each of the following five categories.

- **Observation.** The applicant must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in basic and applied sciences, as well as in didactic courses in nursing theory and practice. The applicant must be able to accurately observe a patient for the purpose of assessment, intervention and evaluation. Observation requires the use of judgment as well as the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing, as well as other sensory modalities such as smell and touch.
- **Communication.** An applicant must be able to read, write, speak and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and all members of the health care team.
- **Motor.** Applicants must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other evaluative procedures. An applicant must possess all skills necessary to carry out diagnostic or therapeutic procedures and be able to interpret appropriate examination and procedures. Applicants should also be able to execute reasonable motor movements required to provide general or emergency treatment of patients.
- **Intellectual.** The applicant must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate and synthesize complex information. Problem solving is a critical skill demanded of nurses and requires all of the aforementioned intellectual abilities. Students must be fully alert and attentive at all times in the clinical setting.
- **Behavioral and Social Attributes.** Applicants must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the assessment, intervention and evaluation of patients and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and coworkers. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical care of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills interest and motivation are all qualities which each applicant should possess.

Cognitive/Physiological Tasks Required for Nursing Program: Students typically attend classes 30 or more hours per week during each academic semester. Classes consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, laboratory and clinical activities. In the practice setting students typically sit from 12 hours daily, stand from two to four hours daily, and

walk two to four hours daily. Students frequently lift less than 10 pounds and occasionally lift weights between 10 and 100 pounds. Students occasionally carry up to 25 pounds while walking up to 50 feet. Students frequently exert 75 pounds of push/pull forces to objects up to 50 feet and occasionally exert 150 pounds of push/pull forces for this distance. Students frequently twist, bend and stoop. Students occasionally squat, crawl, climb stools, reach above shoulder level and kneel. Students frequently move from place to place and position to position and must do so at a speed that permits safe handling of patients. Students frequently stand and walk while providing support to an infirmed patient. Students occasionally climb stairs or negotiate uneven terrain. Students continuously use their hands repetitively with a simple grasp and frequently use a firm grasp and manual dexterity skills. Students frequently coordinate verbal and manual activities with gross motor activities. Students use auditory, tactile and visual senses to receive instruction and to assess, intervene and evaluate patients.

English Composition Skills: Students should exhibit professional level composition skills. Faculty are expected to award or delete points on papers (essays, examinations, term papers, summaries on the client assessment forms, etc.) for usage of proper grammar and consistency and conciseness of thought. Students experiencing difficulty with English composition skills are encouraged to seek the assistance of the Writing Center for their papers.

Computer Skills: Students are expected to have basic computer skills when entering the nursing program. Students use WebCT throughout their nursing courses. Students must be able to complete activities such as: emailing, posting on a discussion board, and using the internet. Formal papers are typed using APA format.

Computer Accounts: To use the College Lab Computers it will be necessary for students to set up a computer account. The account is free and may be obtained by contacting the lab monitor in any of the computer labs on campus for an account. To qualify for an account the student:

- I must be currently enrolled at UNLV
- I must have a picture ID present during account activation
- I must have a full social security number, or 999 number for international students.

The lab monitor will assign the student a username, which consists of the first four letters of your last name, followed by the last four numbers of your social security number. The username cannot be changed. The student creates a personal password the first time the student logs onto the network.