



## Essential Functions for Clinical Coursework

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 that discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Equality of access is achieved through reasonable classroom accommodations and reasonable adaptation of examination and evaluation procedures.

Becoming a nurse requires the completion of a professional education program that is both intellectually and physical challenging. A student interested in enrolling in the nursing program should be able to fully perform the essential functions in each of the following five categories: observation, communication, motor, intellectual, behavioral and social.

1. **Observation:** The applicant must be able to observe demonstrations of physical and psychosocial nursing interventions, and must be able to accurately observe a patient for the purpose of assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Observation, assessment, and evaluation 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.
2. **Communication:** An applicant must be able to effectively and efficiently speak, understand, and write the English language at a level consistent with successful course completion. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and members of the health care team. Communication skills are used to gather assessment data, patient teaching, and provision of emotional support for patients and their families.
3. **Motor:** Applicants must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic/evaluative procedures. Applicants should be able to execute reasonable motor movements required to provide general or emergency treatment of patients. Such actions require moderate motor strength, coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Intellectual:** The applicant must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and evaluate, synthesize and apply complex information. Students must be fully alert and attentive at all times in the clinical setting.
5. **Behavioral/Social:** Applicants must possess the emotional health required for full use of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, 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 co-workers. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically-taxing workloads and to

function effectively under stressful conditions, and 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 applicant should possess.

Students in the health professions are held to standards of conduct that may exceed those typically expected of university students. Adherence to the standards of acceptable conduct as outlined in the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics and the Nurse Practice Act of Nevada (NRS 632) is required.