Nursing Technical Standards

Nurse Aide, Practical Nursing Diploma, Associate Degree Nursing, and WNC RIBN

Technical Standards are nonacademic abilities and characteristics established to meet the essential functions of the selected program of study. This resource is provided to all potential applicants to facilitate the making of an informed decision about a program of study and future career. To better understand the nonacademic expectations of this program of study, the specific technical standards are provided below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential instructional and training elements, cause undue hardship, or compromise safety in the classroom, lab, clinical, and/or field environment.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving Skills	Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information sufficient for clinical judgment.	• Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations. • Evaluate client or instrument responses, synthesize data, and draw sound conclusions. • Collect data, prioritize needs, and anticipate reactions. • Interpret electronic medical records and/or associated paper medical records

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Interpersonal Skills	Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with the healthcare team, patients and families.	• Respect the dignity and rights of all individuals during all interactions • Establish rapport with clients, families, and colleagues. • Establish and maintain therapeutic boundaries.
Communication Skills	Ability to effectively communicate using English verbal and non-verbal formats with faculty, patients, families, fellow students and all members of the multidisciplinary team to monitor and assess patient and equipment function.	• Communicate appropriately with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC and with other professionals, patients and staff in a clinical setting • Document and interpret actions and client responses as well as treatment procedures in a clear, professional, and timely manner. • Convey information to clients and others as necessary to teach and direct in an accurate, effective and timely manner. • Recognize and report critical client information to other caregivers.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Mobility	Physical abilities are sufficient to move in one's environment.	• Move around in work and treatment areas.
Motor Skills	Sufficient motor function to execute movements required to perform duties with the ability to engage in skills requiring the use of gross and fine motor manipulation of arms, hands and fingers.	• Calibrate and use the equipment. • Administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation. • Manually resuscitate clients in emergencies. • Perform the physical assessment and/or therapeutic intervention functions (e.g. insertion of a catheter, palpation of pulse, detect temperature changes).
Physical Strength and Stamina	Sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.	• Reposition immobile clients. • Push/pull up to 100 pounds. • Lift/move heavy objects up to 50 pounds. • Work up to 12 hours daily with breaks.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Sensory • **Sight** • **Sound** • **Touch** • **Smell**	Sufficient auditory, visual, and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.	• Monitor vital signs and observe patients' physical responses. • Detect alarms, timers, patient call-bells, and announcements
Behavioral / Emotional Skills	Present self in a professional manner in clinical and academic settings, demonstrating integrity, accountability and reliability; Function effectively and adapt to circumstances including highly stressful or rapidly changing situations.	• Abide by American Nursing Association Code of Ethics. • Advocate, uphold, and defend a patient's right to privacy and doctrine of confidentiality. • Function under stress and deal with patients and others who may be experiencing stress. • Adapt to changing environments and schedules.
Environmental / Occupational Exposure		• Practice Standard Precautions in the clinical setting. • Carry out job skills in an infectious and hazardous environment, with possible exposure to communicable diseases, body fluids, and toxic substances

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Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
		- Safely work with potentially harmful chemicals used in health care settings. - Work in close, crowded, and noisy areas.

Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.

Accessibility & Accommodations:

It is SCC's goal to create a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive. **If a student has a question as to their ability to meet the minimal technical standards listed above, they should contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator to determine if the standard can be met with accommodations.** To learn more about resources available to you, schedule a consultation or appointment, and/or establish accommodations that may be needed based on impact of a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4326 (Balsam Center, Room 129A).

Signature of Understanding:

I have received a personal copy of the program specific technical standards. I was provided the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. I understand that these are enforceable, nonacademic standards required for the program of study and I certify that I have the ability to meet the technical standards of the program of study.

_____   _____   _____
Student name (printed)   Student Signature   Date