

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NURSING PROGRAM

Essential Skills and Functional Abilities for Nursing Students

Individuals enrolled in the MCCDNP must be able to perform essential skills. If a student believes that he or she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodations, the nursing program must determine, on an individual basis, whether a reasonable accommodation can be made.

Functional Ability	Standard	Examples Of Required Activities
Motor Abilities	Physical abilities and mobility sufficient to execute gross motor skills, physical endurance, and strength, to provide patient care.	Mobility sufficient to carry out patient care procedures such as assisting with ambulation of clients, administering CPR, assisting with turning and lifting patients, providing care in confined spaces such as treatment room or operating suite.
Manual Dexterity	Demonstrate fine motor skills sufficient for providing safe nursing care.	Motor skills sufficient to handle small equipment such as insulin syringe and administer medications by all routes, perform tracheotomy suctioning, insert urinary catheter.
Perceptual/ Sensory Ability	Sensory/perceptual ability to monitor and assess clients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory abilities sufficient to hear alarms, auscultatory sounds, cries for help, etc. • Visual acuity to read calibrations on 1 cc syringe, assess color (cyanosis, pallor, etc). • Tactile ability to feel pulses, temperature, palpate veins, etc. • Olfactory ability to detect smoke or noxious odor, etc.
Behavioral/ Interpersonal/ Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to relate to colleagues, staff and patients with honesty, integrity and nondiscrimination. • Capacity for development of mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationships. • Interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with individuals, families and groups from various social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. • Ability to work constructively in stressful and changing environments with the ability to modify behavior in response to constructive criticism. • Capacity to demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the professional nursing and student honor codes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues. • Work with teams and workgroups. • Emotional skills sufficient to remain calm in an emergency situation. • Behavioral skills sufficient to demonstrate the exercise of good judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of clients. • Adapt rapidly to environmental changes and multiple task demands. • Maintain behavioral decorum in stressful situations.
Safe environment for patients, families and co-workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to accurately identify patients. • Ability to effectively communicate with other caregivers. • Ability to administer medications safely and accurately. • Ability to operate equipment safely in the clinical area. • Ability to recognize and minimize hazards that could increase healthcare associated infections. • Ability to recognize and minimize accident hazards in the clinical setting including hazards that contribute to patient, family and co-worker falls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizes tasks to ensure patient safety and standard of care. • Maintains adequate concentration and attention in patient care settings. • Seeks assistance when clinical situation requires a higher level or expertise/experience. • Responds to monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patients, and orders in a rapid and effective manner.

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NURSING PROGRAM

Essential Skills and Functional Abilities for Nursing Students (Cont)

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the health care team (including spoken and non-verbal communication, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language). • Required communication abilities, including speech, hearing, reading, writing, language skills and computer literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team and participates in health care team discussions of patient care. • Elicits and records information about health history, current health state and responses to treatment from patients or family members. • Conveys information to clients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner. • Establishes and maintain effective working relations with patients and co-workers. • Recognizes and reports critical patient information to other caregivers.
Cognitive/ Conceptual/ Quantitative Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to read and understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. • Ability to gather data, to develop a plan of action, establish priorities and monitor and evaluate treatment plans and modalities. • Ability to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships. • Ability to react effectively in an emergency situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculates appropriate medication dosage given specific patient parameters. • Analyzes and synthesize data and develop an appropriate plan of care. • Collects data, prioritize needs and anticipate reactions. • Comprehend spatial relationships adequate to properly administer injections, start intravenous lines or assess wounds of varying depths. • Recognizes an emergency situation and responds effectively to safeguard the patient and other caregivers. • Transfers knowledge from one situation to another. • Accurately processes information on medication container, physicians' orders, and monitor and equipment calibrations, printed documents, flow sheets, graphic sheets, medication administration records, other medical records and policy and procedure manuals.
Punctuality/ work habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to adhere to MCCDNP policies, procedures and requirements as described in the Student Nurse Handbook, college catalog and student handbook and course syllabus. • Ability to complete classroom and clinical assignments and submit assignments at the required time. • Ability to adhere to classroom and clinical schedules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends class and clinical assignments punctually. • Reads, understands and adheres to all policies related to classroom and clinical experiences. • Contact instructor in advance of any absence or late arrival. • Understand and complete classroom and clinical assignments by due date and time.