

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND ABILITIES OF THE PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENT

Students starting the Western Area Career and Technology Practical Nursing Program will need the cognitive ability, emotional stability, and physical endurance to successfully complete the nursing program and practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

To determine professional suitability for the practice of nursing, the student practical nurse must be able to exercise safe judgments based on assessment data, remain visibly calm and be able to respond appropriately in an emergency situation; demonstrate a caring manner with others; accept and utilize constructive criticism; follow directions; be flexible and demonstrate honesty and integrity.

The student practical nurse cannot pose a significant risk or direct risk to the health or safety of themselves or others.

LISTED BELOW ARE THE FUNCTIONS, ABILITIES AND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENT:

1. Is able to deliver nursing care which may involve standing, sitting, kneeling, bending, pushing, pulling, carrying, lifting, walking, reaching and twisting. Is able to lift at least 50 pounds; therefore, able to assist patients with ambulation, transfers, position changes, and to transport patients within the health care setting. Manual dexterity is essential in the performance of many nursing tasks; such as preparation of certain medication, administration of treatments; such as dressing changes and intravenous fluids, obtaining vital signs, etc. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) without restriction is **required**.
2. Follows written and verbal directions.
3. Communicates knowledge both verbally and in writing. This includes the ability to read, write, hear, and see. Students must be able to speak clearly enough to participate in individual and group discussions in a variety of settings.
4. Observes and interprets patients' data and incorporates that data into a plan of care. This includes assessment and analysis of the physiological, psychosocial, spiritual, and cultural needs of the patient. The ability to see, hear, feel and smell are essential to the collection of data.
5. Implements and evaluates nursing care based on the plan of care for a group of patients. This includes the ability to utilize standard nursing equipment.
6. Completes assignments and examinations within specified time limitations.
7. Reinforces education for patients and their families including discharge planning. There are additional educational tasks the practical nursing student performs, which involves teaching peers and others.

This description of the **ESSENTIAL ABILITIES OF THE PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENT** is meant to include the major areas of responsibility and is not intended to be limited to the above information. **IF YOU BELIEVE YOU NEED A REASONABLE ACCOMODATION TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM THESE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, CONTACT:**

Applicant Name (Print) _____

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____