

Essential Qualifications of Nursing Students

All students in the River Valley Community College Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs must be able to perform diverse, complex, and specific functions and skills. These qualifications are essential for successful completion of the requirements of the program and are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, peers, faculty and other healthcare providers. The essential qualifications include but are not limited to the following abilities:

MOTOR SKILLS

1. The ability to perform full range of motion of body joints, fine motor movements of the hands, and the ability to stoop and bend.
2. The ability to elicit information from patients by palpitation, auscultation, percussion and other assessment maneuvers.
3. The ability to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings including emergency treatment: e.g. transferring, lifting and turning clients, providing hygienic care, assisting patients in activities of daily living and providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
4. The ability to lift up to 50 pounds of weight on a daily basis.
5. The ability to carry objects weighing up to 50 pounds on a daily basis.
6. The ability to push or pull an occupied wheelchair, cart or gurney on a daily basis.

SENSORY/OBSERVATION/COMMUNICATION

1. The ability to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. This requires functional use of the senses of vision and hearing.
2. The ability to perceive the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination, including from images of the body surfaces, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and auditory information.
3. The ability to closely examine images or other forms of output created by diagnostic equipment.
4. The ability to observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessment and intervention or administering medications.
5. The ability to use spoken and written English to communicate in a coherent manner with individuals of all professions and societal levels.
6. The ability to convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment.
7. The ability to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT/BEHAVIOURAL

- 1. The ability to utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families.**
- 2. The ability to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances.**
- 3. The ability to recognize that ones own values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect ones perceptions and relationships with others.**
- 4. The ability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.**
- 5. The ability to learn and abide by professional standards of practice.**
- 6. The ability to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients, and vulnerable adults.**
- 7. The ability to maintain composure when subjected to high stress levels.**
- 8. The ability to adapt effectively to changing environments, especially those with high tension levels.**
- 9. The ability to respond in an emotionally controlled manner in learning situations and emergencies.**