Technical Standards for Matriculation and Continuance in the Clinical Programs of the College of Nursing

Policy and Procedure
## Table of Contents

Policy .............................................................................................................................................. 3  
Purpose........................................................................................................................................... 3  
Scope............................................................................................................................................... 3  
Technical Standards Procedure ....................................................................................................... 4  
Revision History ................................................................................................................................ 6
Technical Standards for Matriculation and Continuance in the Clinical Programs of the College of Nursing

Policy and Procedure

**Policy:** An applicant for the BSN degree must have abilities and skills in the five areas of observation, communication, motor, intellectual and social in order to be accepted and progress through the degree program.

**Purpose:** The Technical Standards policy and procedure are intended to:

- Ensure to full compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Ensure that candidates and students progressing can independently perform the needed nursing functions

**Scope:** Students, Office of Student Affairs
Technical Standards Procedure

The following qualifications are necessary to be considered for admission into and progression through the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing undergraduate programs.

Prior to registration each year in the College of Nursing, all students are required to present evidence of completion of the American Heart Association’s Basic Life Support Course for the Health Care Provider.

In order to successfully progress through the curriculum and function as a practicing nurse upon graduation, the individual must be able to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation correctly, AND meet the following list of requirements. The individual must have the:

I. OBSERVATION
   a. Visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to observe and assess patient behavior.
   b. Ability to identify cyanosis and absence of respiratory movement in a patient.
   c. Ability to accurately read monitors and respond to signals, alarms, and other displays indicating urgent patient need, and take immediate action.
   d. Ability to accurately prepare and administer medication dosages.

II. COMMUNICATION
   a. Ability to speak, write, and comprehend the English language proficiently. The ability to perform activities requiring accurate and efficient interpretation and communication of information in English, both written and spoken. For example:
      • Responding to a physician’s order;
      • Reading and recording information;
      • Directing assistive staff.
   b. Hearing ability with or without auditory aids to understand normal speech without viewing the speaker’s face. (This ability is necessary to insure the nurse will be able to attend to a patient’s call for help).
   c. Auditory acuity sufficient to hear instructions, requests, monitoring alarms, and to auscultate heart tones, breath sounds, and bowel sounds.
   d. Ability to communicate clearly in oral and written form, and in a professional manner with patients, families, visitors, and members of the health care team.
   e. Ability to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.
III. MOTOR
   a. Sufficient physical ability (minimum impairment of upper and lower extremities) to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
   b. Ability to perform motor skills safely, such as:
      • Lifting, bathing, positioning, and transporting patients;
      • Moving efficiently enough to meet the needs of several patients in a timely fashion;
      • Lifting, positioning, or moving an unconscious patient to perform lifesaving procedures;
      • Ambulating independently with or without assistive devices in clients’ rooms and in work areas.
   c. Ability to lift weights of up to 35% of recommended body weight independently.
   d. Manual dexterity sufficient to accurately draw up a solution from a vial into a syringe.
   e. Ability to exercise basic computer skills (e.g., electronic medical record “EMR”).
   f. Good hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity in order to perform various tasks associated with the movement/utilization of various pieces of equipment, supplies, assistance in patient care and procedures.

IV. INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES
   a. Ability to think critically and use problem solving skills.
   b. Ability to analyze data, calculate, and measure.
   c. Ability to perceive all manner of sensory stimuli, including verbal, written, visual, auditory, somatic, tactile, and olfactory.
   d. Ability to synthesize and integrate the aforementioned sensory inputs and apply them to objective and subjective examinations of patients in a timely manner.
   e. Ability to perform all of this with stress/stressful distracters present, consistent with the health care environment.

V. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES
   a. Full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of professional and caring relationships with patients.
   b. Ability to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties involving the clinical problems of many patients.
   c. Personal qualities of integrity, concern for others, and ability to demonstrate interpersonal skills with patients, families, visitors, and members of the health care team.

Admissions and Continuation in the Curriculum
1. The College has determined that the functions and skills listed above are fundamental to the nature of the program.

2. The College will consider for admission any applicant who has:
   a) the ability to perform the functions and skills specified, with or without reasonable accommodations, and
   b) met the published criteria for admission required for all applicants.

3. The college is not permitted to make any inquiries regarding disability at the time of application. Applicants should refer to the “NSA024 Technical Standards for Matriculation and Continuance in the Clinical Programs of the College.”

4. Applicants may review the University of Oklahoma Reasonable Accommodation Policy online at: www.ou.edu/drc. All applicants must meet all published admissions criteria and be able to meet all elements that are fundamental to the nature of the program, with or without accommodation, as outlined in the referenced Technical Standards.

5. A matriculant or current student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation must provide appropriate documentation to substantiate the disability and any functional limitations related to the disability that require reasonable accommodation.

6. The College, in accordance with University Policy, will provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities, but is not required to make modifications that would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the program, service, or activity; cause undue hardship; or result in undue financial or administrative burdens. In order to matriculate or continue in the curriculum, a matriculant or current student must be able to meet all the technical standards that are fundamental to the nature of the program.

7. An inability to successfully meet these standards will lead to a withdrawal of admission offer or dismissal. Requests for accommodation by matriculants or current students should be initiated with the Director of the Disability Resource Center at:

   The University of Oklahoma
   Disability Resource Center
   620 Elm Avenue, Suite 166
   Norman, OK 73019-2093
   (405) 325-3852 Voice
   (405) 325-4173 TDD
   www.ou.edu/drc
   drc@ou.edu

**Revision History**

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<td>Shawn Elwell</td>
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