

FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES for the Nursing ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Functional Ability Categories and Representative Activities/Attributes For the Nursing Assistant Program

The Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) bans discrimination of persons with disabilities. In keeping with this law, Gateway Technical College makes every effort to ensure quality education for all students. However, we feel obliged to inform students of the functional abilities demanded by a particular occupation.

Students should have the ability to:

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS:

- Able to move in confined spaces,
- Maintain balance in standing position,
- twist body from one side to the other,
- reach below the waist and to the front or the side of the body to the level of the top of head (examples: adjust overhead lights, plug electrical appliance into wall outlet, turn gatch handle (crank) to raise and lower nonelectric bed).
- Able to push, pull, stabilize, twist, and freely move arms to allow movement of 25 pounds as in moving an object or transferring a client from one place to another.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS:

- Ability to grasp, twist squeeze, pinch and manipulate fine equipment for at least 5 seconds (example: operate fire extinguisher, open child proof caps/lids).

TACTILE ABILITY:

- Ability to distinguish subtle vibrations through the skin (pulse)
- Ability to identify the subtle difference in surface characteristics (feel a raised rash)
- Ability to detect temperature (skin, liquids, environment)

MOBILITY:

- Ability to squat or modified squat (one knee on floor) for at least 1 minute
- Ability to move quickly in case of emergency situations
- Ability to climb and descend a flight of stairs in succession
- Ability to walk independently without the assistance of a cane, walker, crutches, wheel chair or the assistance of another person

ENVIRONMENT & PHYSICAL ENDURANCE:

- Ability to have stamina sufficient to maintain physical activity for a period of time from 5-8 hours
- Able to tolerate exposure to common allergens such as: pets, body lotions and soaps, cleaning products
- Ability to work in confined areas
- Ability to tolerate heat and humidity as high as 90 degrees for up to 2 hours (shower/spa rooms)

Students with pet allergies need to contact the Nursing Assistant Instructor in advance of the class to determine if a pet resides in the clinical facility. If possible, attempts will be made to place student in clinical facility without pets.

SPEECH AND COMMUNICATON:

- Ability to interact with others to report and advocate for the needs of the clients
- Ability to speak, write and understand English in order to be able to communicate with clients as well as report and document client information

SENSES: SMELL, HEARING AND VISION:

- Ability to detect differences in body and environmental odors
- Ability to hear and understand voices spoken at a normal speaking volume within a distance of 10 feet
- Ability to hear faint noises such as whispers within a range of 4 feet
- Ability to see objects clearly within a minimum of 20 feet
- Ability to have depth perception and peripheral vision to allow identification of dangerous objects and client situations within the client room
- Ability to read and interpret written data held at normal reading distance

EMOTIONAL STABILITY:

- Ability to interact and support clients during times of stress and emotional upset
- Ability to adapt to changing situations and emergency conditions while maintaining emotional control
- Ability to cope with strong emotions and physical outbursts of clients while remaining in a reasonable state of calm
- Ability to focus attention on client needs despite interruptions and multiple demands
- Ability to accept constructive feedback and accept responsibility for own actions

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:

- Ability to apply knowledge gained in classroom to establish appropriate relationships with clients, families and coworkers
- Ability to interact as a member of the health care team
- Ability to show respect for diversity in culture, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status and abilities and disabilities

READING:

- Ability to read and understand at a minimum of a 237 on the Accuplacer Next Gen Reading placement assessment or minimum of a 15 ACT Reading score.
 - Applicants who score lower than the required score are encouraged to meet with a counselor for information about Gateway services to help improve reading and comprehension.
- Ability to understand charts, graphs and worksheets
- Ability to read and understand digital and computer displays

MATH:

- Ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide without the use of a calculator.
- Ability to count and understand the meaning of numbers
- Ability to measure length by reading a tape measure or ruler
- Ability to tell time