

TECHNICAL STANDARDS/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE SECOND DEGREE BSN PATHWAY PROGRAM

The goal of the second degree BSN pathway program in the Department of Nursing Education at The George Washington University is to prepare graduates to be generalist nurses who are providers of direct and indirect patient care, coordinators and managers of care, and members of the profession with responsibility and accountability. Graduates of the BSN program will be prepared to:

- Practice in a variety of healthcare settings.
- Promote patient safety and quality patient care.
- Acquire learning skills to care for patients across the lifespan, within diverse populations, and across the health-illness continuum.
- Use clinical/critical reasoning to address simple to complex situations.
- Use information management and application of patient care technology to better patient care outcomes.
- Engage in continuous professional development.

There are certain functional abilities that are essential for the delivery of safe, effective nursing care during clinical training activities and in the classroom. Therefore, the faculty has determined that certain technical standards are requisite for admission, progression, and graduation from the nursing program.

Skills fundamental to the nursing practice for the second degree BSN pathway program at The George Washington University include but are not limited to the following.

1. General Abilities. Students will be expected to:
 - Integrate, analyze, and synthesize data using the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell in an accurate manner.
 - Effectively evaluate patients' conditions by possessing the ability to monitor pain, pressure, temperature, position, vibration, and movement.
 - Be able to respond promptly to urgent situations that may occur during clinical training activities.
 - Provide proper care to patients by working with other healthcare providers and professionals in other disciplines.
2. Observational Ability. Students will be expected to:
 - Make accurate visual observations.
 - Interpret visual observations accurately.
 - Accurately document observations in the context of laboratory studies, medication administration, and patient care activities.
 - Observe skin integrity.
 - Observe changes in patients' condition.
 - Recognize signs and symptoms of distress in patients.

3. Communication Ability: Students will be expected to:
 - Communicate/respond appropriately and effectively both verbally and non-verbally.
 - Communicate effectively and efficiently in English in clinical and classroom settings.
 - Communicate effectively with patients, family members, and other health care providers.
 - Maintain accurate patient records.
 - Present patient information in a professional and logical manner.
 - Provide effective counseling and instruction for patients and families.

4. Motor Ability: Students will be expected to:
 - Demonstrate sufficient freedom of movement to be able to participate in all classroom and clinical activities.
 - Demonstrate sufficient fine motor skills to be able to manipulate small objects, such as draw up solutions in a syringe.
 - Stand and walk independently while providing nursing care to patients.
 - Perform complete physical examinations utilizing the techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers.
 - Assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medication, and patient care activities.
 - Demonstrate sufficient balance and coordination of neuromuscular control to provide safe and effective nursing interventions.
 - Demonstrate sufficient strength to be able to assist patients with movements and daily life activities.
 - Respond to call light and alarms related to emergencies.

5. Intellectual Abilities. Students will be expected to:
 - Develop and refine problem-solving skills.
 - Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data from patient histories, lab results, and physical examinations to make decisions for nursing interventions.
 - Deliberate with good clinical judgment.
 - Formulate an appropriate nursing care plan.
 - Incorporate new information and research to formulate clinical judgment in patient assessment, intervention, evaluation, and teaching.

6. Professional/Behavioral/Social Abilities. Students will be expected to:
 - Abide by ANA's code of ethics for nurses.
 - Establish professional, compassionate, motivational, and effective interpersonal skills.
 - Accept the role of a nurse functioning under the supervision of a clinical instructor or preceptor.

- Demonstrate integrity and honesty in the academic and clinical environment.
- Engage in respectful, non-judgmental interactions with individuals and the health care team.
- Maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.
- Adapt to changing environments.
- Adapt to and function effectively in stressful situations in both classroom and clinical settings.
- Develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other health care providers.
- Work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team.

Applicants/candidates/students with disabilities who meet the technical standards noted, with or without reasonable accommodations, shall not be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, nor be subjected to discrimination in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Potential applicants are encouraged to observe professionals performing in nursing practice in hospitals/healthcare settings in order to make an informed decision prior to applying to the program. Through these voluntary experiences, students who feel they are capable of completing these essentials are encouraged to apply. If applicable, please inform the program of any reasonable accommodations you may require.