

Essential Qualifications for BSN Students

The Northwest University Buntain School of Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) signifies the holder of the BSN degree has been educated to competently practice nursing in all healthcare settings and to apply for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure in the State of Washington. The education of a nurse requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment through patient care experiences in preparation for independent, semi-autonomous practice where making appropriate decisions is required. The practice of nursing emphasizes inter-professional collaboration among physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals and the patient.

The curriculum leading to the BSN requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences essential to the acquisition and practice of essential nursing skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. In addition to being essential to the successful completion of the requirements of the BSN, these functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, peers, faculty, and other healthcare providers.

The essential abilities necessary to acquire or demonstrate competence in a discipline as complex as nursing and needed for successful admission and continuance by students in the BSN degree program at the Buntain School of Nursing include but are not limited to the following:

Motor Skills

Sufficient motor function is needed to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in a variety of health care settings. The student must be able to perform basic life support, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and function in an emergency situation. The student must have the ability, within reasonable limits, to safely assist a patient in moving.

Sensory/Observation

A student must be able to use and interpret information presented through demonstrations and experiences in nursing. He or she must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close proximity, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessment and intervention or administering medications. The student must be capable of identifying signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. Such information is derived from visual inspection of the body, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and auditory information (patient voice, heart tones, bowel and lung sounds).

Communication

A student must be able to effectively communicate verbally, non-verbally, and in writing with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. He or she must express his or her ideas clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. The student must be able to process and communicate relevant information to faculty and other healthcare providers in a timely

manner. Students are expected to ask for assistance and supervision when needed and be professional, accountable, and ethical in all interactions.

Cognitive

A student must be able to accurately measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information in the context of undergraduate nursing study. The student must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material. He or she must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.

Behavioral/Emotional

A student must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. In addition, the student must be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances. The student must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. The student must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. The student must know that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others. The student must be able and willing to examine, evaluate, and change his or her behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships. The student must possess skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments.

Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

The Buntain School of Nursing is committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified students with disabilities are given equal access through reasonable accommodations to its services, programs, activities, education and employment for students with disabilities.

It is recommended the student notify the University of his/her disability when the student is confirmed for enrollment. Formal notification is required prior to the consideration of an accommodation request. Documentation should include a medical or educational evaluation by a physician or licensed learning specialist, a description of what specific accommodations have been offered in the past, and a list of specific needs and services that will be requested from Northwest University. All disability accommodation requests should be submitted to the Director of Academic Success and Advising.

Students are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. The Buntain School of Nursing will work with the student and Academic Success and Advising to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

Adapted from: Katz, JR., Woods, SL., Cameron, CA., & Milam, S. (2004, Nov-Dec). Essential qualifications for nursing students. *Nurs Outlook*, 52(6), 277-88.