

| | |
|---|---|
| Northwest University | Date Issued: 10/1/2015 |
| Buntain School of Nursing | Date Revised: 10/4/2016, 5/13/2024 |
| POLICIES AND PROCEDURES | Date Reviewed: 10/2016, 8/2010, 2/2024 |
| TITLE: 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. 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 interprofessional collaboration among healthcare providers, nurses, allied health care professionals, and the patient.

The curriculum leading to the BSN requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences necessary for 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.

This document outlines the technical standards and essential functions that students must meet for successful completion of the program.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Motor Skills and Physical Strength

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. The student must have the ability, within reasonable limits, to safely assist a patient in moving. The student must be able to physically manipulate equipment needed to care for the patient. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision or the functional equivalent. The student must have the stamina necessary to perform nursing functions over an extended period. Clinical shifts may last up to twelve hours.

Sensory Abilities

The student must be able to demonstrate proficiency in utilizing and comprehending information conveyed via demonstrations and practical experiences. They should possess the ability to accurately observe patients both from a distance as well as up close, effectively interpreting non-verbal cues during nursing assessments, interventions, and medication administration. The student must be capable of identifying signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. This data is obtained through visual inspection of the body, palpation to detect changes in various organs and tissues, and interpretation of auditory cues such as the patient's voice, heart tones, bowel, and lung sounds.

Communication Skills

The student must be able to effectively communicate verbally, non-verbally, and in writing with peers, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. The student must express ideas clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. The student must be able to quickly process and communicate relevant information to faculty and other healthcare providers in a timely manner. The student is expected to ask for assistance and supervision when needed and be professional, accountable, and ethical in all interactions.

Cognitive Skills

The 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. The student must be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.

Behavioral and Emotional Skills

The student must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities related to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. 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 or in unpredictable ways. The student must be able to cultivate empathy towards the situations and circumstances of others, and effectively convey that empathy through communication. The student should understand how their values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences influence their perceptions and interactions with others. The student must be willing and able to examine,

evaluate, and change behavior when it interferes with individual or team relationships. The student must possess skills necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments.

Professional Conduct

The student must perform in a professional and ethical manner in all interactions with peers, faculty, staff, and patients. The student must be able to give and receive constructive feedback. The student must demonstrate the ability to process feedback and use it to conform to expected professional standards. The student is expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the values of Northwest University. Each student is obligated to refrain from violating academic integrity and maintain high standards of conduct. The student is accountable for their own actions and for recognizing and reporting breaches by others. In addition, the Buntain School of Nursing holds each student accountable for adhering to the professional code of ethics.

See AACN Essentials Domain 9.

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, and education.

The student interested in applying for admission to the Buntain School of Nursing is encouraged to consider the possible need for reasonable accommodations as they review these technical standards and essential functions to become familiar with the skills, abilities, and characteristics required to complete the program.

It is recommended the student notify the University of any disability when the student is confirmed for enrollment. Formal notification is required prior to the consideration of an accommodation request. Students should contact the Director of Academic Success early in the application process or early in an academic term to engage in a confidential conversation about disability services. Students must complete a Disability Accommodation Request Form and submit documentation. Documentation should include a current medical or educational evaluation by a licensed healthcare provider or licensed learning specialist, a description of what specific accommodations were utilized by the student in the past, and a list of specific needs and services that will be requested from NU.

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