



SANDBURG NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Essential skills & abilities required for health profession programs

As a health professions applicant/student, you must possess the knowledge and ability to effectively assist your patients' biophysical, psychological, social, cultural and intellectual domains. Additionally, as a health professions student, you must continuously and competently analyze your patients' conditions, and through intellectual reasoning, determine their status or need, plan independently or collaboratively for appropriate diagnostic or therapeutic actions, perform appropriate measures in accordance with the profession's scope of practice, and evaluate the care delivered and the patient's response to it.

You must have the essential skills and abilities necessary to provide competent patient care, which include:

- Observation
- Communication
- Motor ability
- Conceptualization
- Integration and quantification
- Behavioral/social acceptability

Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain areas, but you should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable, in that an applicant's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection.

Necessary skills and abilities

As an applicant/student, you must be able to perform the following:

OBSERVATION

Observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand, which necessitates the functional use of vision and somatic sensation, and is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

COMMUNICATION

- Speak, to hear and to observe patients to:
- Provide instructions and elicit information
- Describe changes in mood, activity and posture
- Perceive nonverbal communications

Communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, including speech, reading and writing. Communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the healthcare team.

MOTOR

Sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation auscultation, percussion and other assessment procedures, as well as to gain access to patients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate the equipment central to performing diagnostic procedures and providing treatment to clients under your care. This requires coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE & QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem-solving, the critical skills demanded of health professions students, requires all of these intellectual abilities.

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of your intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. Tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. Able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for members of the health profession.

Sandburg affirms all students enrolled in the health profession programs must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.

RN/LPN/CNA medical assistant phlebotomy diagnostic imaging – radiology technology/CT/MRI

The essential skill sheet lists the most commonly encountered qualities and skills typically necessary to be successful in a particular health professions program or area of interest. This is not an all-inclusive list, but intended only as a guide. Individual programs may have specific requirements or technical standards that must be met.

PHYSICAL

- See objects 20 inches to more than 20 feet away.
- Distinguish colors and changes in its variation.
- Feel differences in surface characteristics.
- Detect odors (faint, strong, noxious).
- Maintain balance (sit, stand, squat).
- Pinch, grasp, squeeze and manipulate objects.
- Push, pull, lift and/or support a minimum of 25 pounds.
- Push, pull, lift and/or support up to 125 pounds.
- Maintain safety of self and others.
- Maintain physical endurance.
- Sustain repetitive movements.

- Stand/walk for long periods of time.
- Reach below waist.
- Write with pen/pencil.
- Key/type, twist, bend, climb.
- Move quickly.
- Sit for long periods of time.
- Feel vibrations.
- Use peripheral vision.
- Move within confined spaces.
- Reach above shoulders.

COGNITIVE

- Provide emotional support to others.
- Count whole numbers.
- Cope with unexpected situations and emotions.
- Measure weight or mass.
- Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently.
- Measure temperature.
- Apply knowledge from one situation to another.
- Measure liquid volume.
- Accurately recall information.
- Measure time.
- Combine knowledge and skills.
- Negotiate interpersonal conflict.
- Focus attention on task.
- Adaptability
- Process information.
- Evaluate outcomes.
- Problem solve.
- Evaluate the complexity of jobs.
- Organize tasks to meet deadlines (hourly, daily, long-term).
- Sequence outcomes.
- Focus attention on task.
- Tell time.
- Take measurements using specialized equipment.

COMMUNICATION

- Read, write, speak and comprehend English effectively.
- Verbalize clear and appropriate information to others.
- Communicate in a professional/tactful manner.
- Communicate using a telephone.
- Record written information.
- Explain procedures.
- Direct activities of others Influence others.



- Communicate using a two-way radio.

BEHAVIORAL

- Exhibit honesty and fairness.
- Establish a rapport with others.
- Promote physical and emotional well-being of others.
- Exhibit patience.
- Maintain professional boundaries.
- Maintain professional appearance.
- Respect social, cultural and spiritual diversity.
- Exhibit compassion.
- Work carefully while maintaining efficiency and organization.
- Respect individual values/opinions without showing bias or preference.

OTHER

- Cleared background investigation/drug screen. (See program for specifics.)
- May be on call or work nights, weekends and holidays.
- See program or desired area of employment for specifics on:
 - Piercings, tattoos, etc.
 - Certifications/licenses
 - Immunizations
 - Prerequisites