Santa Monica College Nursing Program

Essential Functions Required of Nursing Students

Motor Capability:

- Move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
- Transfer patients who may require physical assistance.
- Guard and assist patients with ambulation.
- Lift and carry up to 50 pounds and exert up to 100 pounds of force for push/pull.
- Squat, bend/stoop, reach above shoulder level, kneel, use standing balance, and climb stairs.
- Use hands repetitively; use manual dexterity.
- Adjust, apply, and clean therapeutic equipment.
- Perform CPR
- Travel to and from academic and clinical sites.

Sensory Capability:

- Coordinate verbal and manual instruction.
- Assess a patient 10 feet away to observe patient’s behavior and response to treatment.
- Respond to a timer, alarm, or cries for help.
- Monitor vital signs.
- Auditory, visual, olfactory, and tactile ability must be sufficient to assess patient status and perform treatments (example: color changes in skin, hear heart and lung sounds, and smell malodorous drainage).

Communication Ability:

- Communicate effectively in English with patients, families, and other health care providers, both verbally and in writing (example: explain treatment procedures, teach patient and families, document in charts).
- Effectively adapt communication for intended audience.
- Interact, establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
- Assume the role of a health care team member.
- Function effectively under supervision.
Problem solving Ability:

- Function effectively under stress.
- Respond appropriately to emergencies.
- Adhere to infection control procedures.
- Demonstrate problem solving skills in patient care (measure, calculate, reason, prioritize, synthesize data).
- Use sound judgment and safety precautions.
- Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.
- Organize and prioritize tasks.
- Follow policies and procedures required by clinical and academic settings.

Adapted with permission from Sierra College 4/04