

## Introduction

This document introduces the nonacademic standards, skills, and performance requirements expected of every student in the Nursing program. It is essential for all students entering the program to understand that these requirements are necessary for the satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and development of professional attributes for graduation. Reading these standards carefully along with a realistic assessment of your own personality interests, abilities, strengths, and weaknesses will ensure that you choose a program and career path that is a good fit for you.

Nurses represent the largest group of healthcare professionals in the United States and the most trusted profession as well (Smiley, 2018). GTCC offers an Associate Degree in Nursing that prepares you for licensure as a Registered Nurse. RNs assist individuals, families, and communities to achieve and maintain health. The RN develops a plan of nursing care and coordinates the implementation of the plan of care with the healthcare team. The Practical Nursing diploma prepares the student to assist with planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care under the supervision of a Registered Nurse or other approved licensed healthcare professional.

Students are expected to demonstrate the following skills fundamental to the Nursing practice:

### Communication

- Communicate effectively with clients and other health team members in face to face and automated situations
- Interpret procedure manuals, medical records, and electronic data
- Document accurately such items as numbers, reports, etc. on client medical records

### Motor Coordination

- Move heavy equipment and/or clients in wheelchairs, hospital beds, or stretchers weighing up to 300 lbs.
- Lift, manipulate, or move 50 lbs. several times in a 3 hour period
- Safely and accurately perform skills such as insertion of catheters, wound care, and administration of medications
- Safely and accurately manipulate equipment necessary in the delivery of client care

### Mobility

- Independently stand or walk up to 12 hours per day
- Work continuously up to 3 hours at a time
- Ambulate in a variety of environments including small spaces
- Assist clients with ambulation and performance of functional activities

## Sensory

- Gather client data using assessment techniques
- Discern between normal and abnormal client assessments
- Evaluate images on monitors and operate equipment under variable lighting situations
- Adequately perceive depth in order to move and position equipment and transport patients safely
- Demonstrate tactile, gross, and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe patient care, patient assessment, patient radiographic positioning, and equipment operation
- Accurately interpret alarms, normal speaking level sounds, and auscultatory sounds, (i.e. equipment, monitors, fire alarms, call bells)

## Intellectual

- Use short and long-term memory to critically think and problem solve
- Apply critical thinking techniques to problem solve and adapt to unexpected situation changes
- Analyze client data to determine appropriate nursing intervention
- Safely calculate medication administration dosages
- Organize and prioritize multiple tasks
- Apply critical judgment and management at all times

## Social

- Work in groups and collaborate with other healthcare professionals
- Be prompt in attendance
- Demonstrate professional and ethical behavior
- Accept constructive feedback
- Perform effectively in high-stress environments

## Professional Behavior

- Maintain academic honesty
- Adhere to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics
- Practice professional behavior while using social media
- Practice client and faculty privacy regulations in writing, speaking, and use of technology
- Adhere to college and department regulations