

School of Nursing

Technical Standards for Doctoral Nursing Education

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Purpose

The VCU School of Nursing is responsible for providing education without regard to disability while assuring that academic and technical standards are met. This document defines the non-academic criteria for advancement through graduation from the Nursing Doctoral (PhD) program at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing.

The following technical standards describe the essential functions that a student is expected to demonstrate in order to fulfill the requirement of the nursing education program, and thus, are required for advancement through and graduation from the program. The technical standards for each category identified below are consistent with the expectations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The technical skill areas include motor, sensory/observation, communication, cognitive and behavioral.

Standards

Motor Skills:

- A student must be able to coordinate gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and the functional use of the senses of touch and vision reasonably to operate a computer keyboard and to read a computer screen or have appropriate accommodation.
- A student must be able to maneuver in the research setting.

Sensory/Observation:

- A student must be able to hear with or without devices of assistance to elicit information from patients, faculty and professionals.
- A student must be able to listen and send clear and convincing messages.
- A student must be able to de-escalate disagreements and orchestrate solutions.

Communications:

- A student must possess written and verbal fluency in the English language to elicit information from and provide information to patients, faculty and health care professionals.
- A student must be able to comprehend written communications such as the ability to read, understand and

follow directions in the English language to fulfill the required tasks and duties of a doctoral student.

- A student must be able to network with other professionals and demonstrate the ability to engage with appropriate non-verbal and verbal communication.

Cognitive:

- A student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize complex information to solve problems.
- A student must be able to integrate didactic and experiential learning to solve problems with critical judgment and analysis.

Behavioral:

- A student must possess the mental health required for full use of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities. A student must be able to develop and sustain mature, sensitive and effective relationships with a web of faculty, colleagues and other health care professionals.
- A student must be able to tolerate and function effectively under stress.
- A student must be able to concentrate in the presence of distracting conditions.
- A student must be able to concentrate for prolonged periods of time.
- A student must be able to relate in a professional manner to patients, families, faculty and other health care professionals.
- A student must be able to accept constructive feedback and demonstrate a willingness to respond appropriately.
- A student must be able to read and regulate emotions as well as to recognize their impact on work performance and relationships, especially in the face of angry or emotionally-charged people.
- A student must be able to adapt to and be flexible with changing environments, uncertainty and ambiguity.
- A student must be able to display compassion, empathy, honesty, integrity, interpersonal skills and motivation consistently.
- A student must be able to acquire transportation for off-campus classes or meetings outside Virginia Commonwealth University.

I attest that I have read and understand the technical standards required to successfully complete the program in nursing, and I believe that I can, and am prepared to, meet those requirements.

Name (please print)

Applicant signature

Date