

FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES ESSENTIAL FOR NURSING PRACTICE

A candidate for a nursing degree may need to possess functional abilities essential for nursing practice. Reasonable accommodations may be made for some disabilities. However, a candidate is expected to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

FIFTEEN CATEGORIES OF FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Gross Motor Skills	Gross motor skills sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective nursing care activities.
Fine Motor Skills	Fine motor skills sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills.
Physical Endurance	Physical stamina sufficient to perform full range of required client care activities.
Mobility	Physical ability sufficient to move from place to place and to maneuver to perform nursing activities.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of client health care needs.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for accurate observation and performance of nursing care.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health care needs.
Smell	Olfactory ability sufficient to detect environmental and client odors.
Reading	Reading ability sufficient to comprehend the written word at a minimum of tenth grade level.
Arithmetic	Arithmetic ability sufficient to do computation as a minimum of an eighth grade level. It includes the following three concepts: Counting: the act of enumerating or determining the number of items in a group; Measuring: the act or process of ascertaining the extent, dimensions or quantity of something; Computing: the act or process of performing mathematical calculations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Emotional Stability	Emotional stability sufficient to assume responsibility/accountability for actions.
Analytical Thinking	Reasoning skills sufficient to perform deductive/inductive thinking for nursing decisions.
Critical Thinking Skills	Critical thinking ability sufficient to exercise sound nursing judgment.
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups respecting social, cultural and spiritual diversity.
Communication Skills	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in oral and written form.

Ailey, S. and Marks, B. (2017) Technical Standards for Nursing Education Programs in the 21st Century.
Rehabilitation Nursing, 42(5), pp.245-253

Yocom, C. (1996) Validation Study: Functional Abilities for Nursing Practice. Chicago: National Council of State Boards of Nursing