

## 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
<b>Gross Motor Skills</b>	Gross motor skills sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective nursing care activities.
<b>Fine Motor Skills</b>	Fine motor skills sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills.
<b>Physical Endurance</b>	Physical stamina sufficient to perform full range of required client care activities.
<b>Mobility</b>	Physical ability sufficient to move from place to place and to maneuver to perform nursing activities.
<b>Hearing</b>	Auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of client health care needs.
<b>Visual</b>	Visual ability sufficient for accurate observation and performance of nursing care.
<b>Tactile</b>	Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health care needs.
<b>Smell</b>	Olfactory ability sufficient to detect environmental and client odors.
<b>Reading</b>	Reading ability sufficient to comprehend the written word at a minimum of tenth grade level.
<b>Arithmetic</b>	Arithmetic ability sufficient to do computation as a minimum of an eighth grade level. It includes the following three concepts: <b>Counting:</b> the act of enumerating or determining the number of items in a group; <b>Measuring:</b> the act or process of ascertaining the extent, dimensions or quantity of something; <b>Computing:</b> the act or process of performing mathematical calculations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
<b>Emotional Stability</b>	Emotional stability sufficient to assume responsibility/accountability for actions.
<b>Analytical Thinking</b>	Reasoning skills sufficient to perform deductive/inductive thinking for nursing decisions.
<b>Critical Thinking Skills</b>	Critical thinking ability sufficient to exercise sound nursing judgment.
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups respecting social, cultural and spiritual diversity.
<b>Communication Skills</b>	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 21<sup>st</sup> 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