



Title: Essential Functions, Behaviors
 and abilities of the nursing student

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Areas Affected: All BSMCON Faculty & Students

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POLICY STATEMENT:

Nursing is a practice discipline. The professional practice of nursing draws upon the cognitive ability, psychomotor skills, interpersonal skills, emotional stability and physical endurance of those persons engaged in the discipline. Given the nature of the curriculum at Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, a student must be prepared to meet the basic requirements of a practicing professional nurse.

A student accepted into this program must demonstrate competence in the areas of cognitive ability, psychomotor skills, interpersonal skills, emotional stability, and physical endurance. The student must not pose a significant risk or direct threat to the health, safety, or welfare of themselves or others. In addition, the student must demonstrate suitability for the practice of nursing as follows:

- A. Demonstrates integrity and honesty.
- B. Exercises safe, rational judgments.
- C. Demonstrates a high degree of sensitivity and caring.
- D. Behaves in a responsible manner.
- E. Effectively responds to the evaluation process.
- F. Follows directions.
- G. Maintains self-control.
- H. Demonstrates flexibility.
- I. Accepts the presence of different cultures, beliefs, values, and lifestyles.
- J. Commits a reasonable amount of time and effort to meet the educational objectives.

The following essential functions, behaviors, physical requirements, skills, and abilities are requirements for the nursing student. The student must be able to:

- A. Deliver nursing care to all types of clients in a variety of settings. Note: Students may be exposed to infectious body fluids, toxic drugs and solutions, or radiation. Clinical experiences will take place in community and hospital settings.
- B. Analyzes data, performs mental calculations, acts in emergency situations, makes discriminating judgments, assumes leadership roles, and teaches.
- C. Assess, collect and interpret patient data, and incorporate this data into a plan of care. Note: Collection of data requires the ability to see, hear, smell, and feel when performing functions such as physical assessment, neurological checks, and wound care. Also includes the ability

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Approved by: Milane [Signature]
Milane [Signature]
 Signature

Dean of Nursing _____
 Provost/VP _____
 Title

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 Dean of Student Services – 5/08
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to transfer information from one document to another without error.

- D. Implement and evaluate nursing care based upon a plan of care for an individual or group of individuals. Note: This includes the ability to prioritize, focus on patient outcomes, utilize standards of care, and operate standard nursing equipment.
- E. Deliver nursing care to conscious and unconscious patients such as bathing, toileting, feeding, ambulation, transfers, positioning, and transportation. Note: These functions may involve walking and standing for prolonged periods of time; sitting, moving, pushing and pulling up to 50 lbs; stooping, kneeling, climbing and reaching.
- F. Perform manual procedures such as administer medications, obtain vital signs, and perform sterile procedures. Note: Coordination and dexterity are required.
- G. Perform complex technical skills such as regulating intravenous fluids, performing venipuncture, and operating electronic monitoring equipment. Note: Demonstration of precise eye/hand coordination with visual acuity is essential.
- H. Perform emergency measures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and suctioning. Note: This requires emotional control and immediate response. CPR certification and re-certification is required.
- I. Communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing with patients, faculty, peers, interprofessional. Note: The ability to read, write, see, and hear sufficiently is required to obtain, document, and communicate patient data and academic work.
- J. Complete assignments and examinations within the specified time limitations. Note: This includes clinical and skill lab functions as well as classroom.
- K. Demonstrate professional conduct and responsibility with accountability. Note: This requires behavior which reflects honesty and integrity, sensitivity and respect, functioning within safe ethical and legal standards, self-evaluation, and ongoing commitment to the learning process.

This description of essential functions, behaviors and abilities of nursing students is intended to provide examples of areas of responsibility.