

University of North Florida
Brooks College of Health, School of Nursing

Essential Functions

The School of Nursing faculty has specified essential functions (technical standards) critical to the success of students in any UNF nursing program. Students must demonstrate these essential functions to succeed in their program of study. Qualified applicants are expected to meet all admissions criteria and matriculating students are expected to meet all progression criteria, as well as those essential functions (technical standards) with or without reasonable accommodations.

1. Essential judgment skills to include: ability to identify, assess, and comprehend conditions surrounding patient situations for the purpose of problem solving around patient conditions and coming to appropriate conclusions and/or course of actions.
2. Essential neurological functions to include: ability to use the senses (such as seeing, hearing, touch, and smell) to make correct judgments regarding patient conditions for the purpose of demonstrating competence to safely engage in the practice of nursing. Behaviors that demonstrate essential neurological functions include, but are not limited to observation, listening, understanding relationships, writing, and psychomotor abilities.
3. Essential communication skills to include: ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with fellow students, faculty, patients, and all members of the health care team in settings where communication typically is oral, in settings where communication typically is written, and in settings when the time span available for communication is limited. Skills include verbal, written, and non-verbal abilities consistent with effective communication.
4. Essential emotional coping skills: ability to demonstrate the mental health necessary to safely engage in the practice of nursing as determined by professional standards of practice.
5. Essential intellectual/conceptual skills to include: ability to measure, calculate, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate to engage competently in the safe practice of nursing.
6. Other essential behavioral attributes: ability to engage in activities consistent with safe nursing practice without demonstrated behaviors of abuse of, dependence on, or impairment by alcohol, other drugs or substances that may impair behavior or judgment. The student must demonstrate responsibility and accountability for actions as a student and as a developing professional nurse.