Technical Standards

Nursing education requires that the accumulation of knowledge be accompanied by the acquisition of skills, professional attitudes, and behavior so that the graduate may assume specific role responsibilities in a safe and competent manner. LSUHSC - NO School of Nursing provides graduates with a broad and basic preparation for professional nursing practice.

The LSUHSC - NO School of Nursing complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and has determined that certain technical standards must be met by prospective candidates and students. Reasonable accommodation will be made for otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. All individuals must be able to perform independently; therefore, an applicant to the program must possess and be able to demonstrate the skills, attributes, and qualities set forth below, without unreasonable dependence on technology or intermediaries.

Observational Ability

Observation necessitates the use of the sense of vision and other sensory modalities. The student must have visual acuity and perception to make accurate observations, both close at hand and at a distance. The student is expected to be able to observe the patient holistically to accurately assess the presence of any illness or an alteration of health.

To provide quality nursing care, the student is expected to possess functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, taste, and smell. All data received by the senses must be integrated, analyzed, and synthesized in a consistent and accurate manner. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the abilities to measure intake and output accurately; work with multiple tubes, drains, and monitoring equipment; visually assess patients and machines, including color recognition; make fine discriminations in sound and be able to hear alarms, emergency signals, patient requests, or cries for help; and assess by palpitation, auscultation, and percussion. In addition, the student is expected to possess the ability to perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, equilibrium, and movement.

Communication

The student is expected to be able to effectively communicate and receive communication, both verbally, and non-verbally. This requires the ability to see, speak, hear, read, write, and effectively utilize the English language. A student must be able to relate to others regardless of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. A student must elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A student must be able to communicate effectively, therapeutically, and sensitively with patients. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the ability to explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret nursing actions and patient responses, and maintain composure when discussing a serious situation.

Motor Function and Coordination

The student is expected to have the psychomotor skills necessary to perform or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medications, and emergency interventions. The student is expected to be able to perform gross and fine motor movements required to provide holistic nursing care. The student is expected to maintain consciousness and equilibrium have the physical strength and stamina to perform satisfactorily in clinical nursing experiences and to have the functional use of the sense of touch, hearing, and vision. Examples of care that the student must be able to perform include, but are not limited to, turning, transferring, transporting, exercising the patients, administering CPR, administering medication, applying pressure to stop bleeding, suctioning of obstructed airways, and performing physical examinations, performing clean and sterile procedures, specimen collection, and venipuncture. All students must be able to sit, walk, stand, and maneuver in small spaces. Assessments may also require the student to bend, squat, reach, kneel, or balance. The student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads.
Behavioral and Social Attributes

The student is expected to have the emotional stability, maturity, and self-discipline to fully utilize his/her intellectual abilities, exercise sound judgment, complete assessment, and intervention activities, and develop sensitive interpersonal relationships with patients, families, and others responsible for health care. The student is expected to have the flexibility to function effectively under stress and to competently function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical setting. Compassion, integrity, honesty, accountability, altruism, autonomy, and motivation are necessary personal qualities.

Intellectual-Conceptual Ability

The student must possess critical thinking sufficient for sound clinical judgment, develop problem-solving skills, and demonstrate the ability to establish care plans and priorities. The student must possess cognitive skills and learning abilities to acquire, assimilate, integrate, and apply information. This includes, but is not limited to, the ability to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; apply the nursing process; read and comprehend health care information; learn materials presented in class and apply it to patient care; measure, calculate, analyze, and categorize; apply data based on conclusions arrived at through critical thinking; synthesize objective as well as subjective data; and make decisions that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation of the appropriate data.

Each student must continue to meet all of the TECHNICAL STANDARDS set forth above. A student may be denied permission to continue in the education program at the School of Nursing should the student fail at any time to demonstrate all of the required TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

E-mail and Computer Literacy

The principal method of communication in the Health Science Center is e-mail. All students are expected to obtain an LSUHSC computer account upon admission to the School of Nursing and to check their LSUHSC e-mail frequently for school-related communications. Students are responsible for accessing information in a timely manner.

Students must be computer literate and be able to perform basic computer, software, editing, internet, and browsing skills, such as the following.

- Locating, opening and closing files
- Using a word processor to create, edit and save documents
- Cutting, copying, and pasting text from one document to another
- Toggling between two applications
- Uploading and downloading files
- Finding and using the Internet Explorer browser on our computer
- Configuring your browser to send e-mail
- Locating web sites when using a www address (URL)
- Searching the internet for specific topics

Each student must continue to meet all of the TECHNICAL STANDARDS set forth above. A student may be denied permission to continue in the nursing program if the student fails at any time to demonstrate any of the required TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

I have received a copy of these Technical Standards and have had these standards explained to me. I understand the implications of these standards as they apply to my progress and graduation from the School of Nursing. I understand that I am responsible for reviewing the detailed examples of nursing behaviors that illustrate the application of the standards in the LSUHSC Catalog/Bulletin.

_______________________  ___________________  _______________
Print Name                Signature                  Date