

Essential Abilities/Technical Standards

Methodist College of Nursing specifies that the following abilities are critical to the success of students enrolled in the nursing program. Students must be able to perform these abilities to meet the requirements of this program.

Outcome	Standard	Example of Outcome Behaviors
Critical Thinking Ability	Utilize critical thinking to make competent clinical judgments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate nursing care plans • Recognize clinically significant changes in health status • Predict outcomes • Calculate medication/dosages
	Able to use the scientific method to solve problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective in decision-making • Identifies priorities and selects course of action
Caring	Exemplifies good character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treats others with respect and dignity • Examines sensitivity to feelings of self and others • Abides by drug free and smoke free environment • Accountable for own actions
	Able to perform skills sufficiently for monitoring and assessing environmental, safety, physical, and health needs.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to verbal requests during emergency situations • Performs aspects of physical assessment which require use of stethoscope, i.e. heart, lung, and bowel sounds • Responds to emergency alarms (fire alarms, call bells, monitor equipment)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detects physical changes

Outcome	Standard	Example of Outcome Behaviors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses changes in amount of body fluids (detects spills) • Reads results of testing devices • Responds to emergency alarms
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detects potentially hazardous conditions • Detects odors • Detects smoke
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palpates landmarks for assessment, medication injection, or IV insertion • Detects temperature changes related to physical assessment • Determines presence, absence, or quality of pulses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross and fine motor abilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moves quickly in response to emergency situations • Adheres to universal precautions • Performs and maintains sterile technique • Assists clients with transfer and ambulation • Be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds. • Manipulates equipment to perform procedures (e.g., syringes, catheters, IV tubing) • Administers CPR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical endurance and strength 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical stamina sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills • Physical stamina sufficient to perform full range of required client care activities

Outcome	Standard	Example of Outcome Behaviors
Communication	Able to exchange information in verbal, non-verbal, and written form in classroom and clinical settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates verbally in clear, intelligible and professional manner • Uses appropriate non-verbal communication (e.g., eye contact, touch, body language, facial expression) • Communicates through computer usage • Able to write and speak English effectively • Validates care delivered through written documentation • Does not divulge confidential information • Provides clear instructions • Able to communicate with others in group situations
Nursing Roles/ Nursing Practice	Participates in the evaluation process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates self • Evaluates client through goal setting and goal attainment • Evaluates environments
	Able to organize and manage time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizes time effectively • Accountable for own actions • Sets priorities
	Retains composure when adapting to changing environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapts to changing environments • Flexible • Deals with the unexpected • Retains objectivity
	Interacts with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes rapport with others • Works cooperatively on interdisciplinary health team • Respects social, cultural, and spiritual diversity