

LAKE LAND COLLEGE

Essential Functions for Nursing Students

All students in the Lake Land College Nursing programs must be able to perform diverse, complex, and specific functions and skills. Functional ability is a state of wellness. Therefore, these functions and skills are essential to ensure the health and safety of clients, peers, faculty, and other healthcare providers. The functions and skills include, but are not limited to, the following abilities:

<p><i>Motor Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move within confined space • Sit/stand and maintain balance for prolonged periods • Reach above shoulders and below waist • Sustain repetitive movement • Sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers 	<p><i>Fine motor skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up/grasp small objects with hands • Write with pen or pencil • Keyboard/Type (use a computer) • Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (syringe; withdraw blood) • Twist (turn knobs with hands) • Squeeze with finger (eye dropper)
<p><i>Critical Thinking Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cause and effect relationships • Plan/control activities for others • Synthesize knowledge and skills • Sequence information 	<p><i>Sensory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual and auditory acuity within normal range (with correction if needed) in order to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. • Auditory interpretation of normal speech • Accurately interpret faint voices • Auscultate body sounds: (BP), bowel, lung, heart • Use depth perception and peripheral vision • Accurately interpret small print on medication containers, syringes, discriminate color changes, read type at 8 font, and document on college ruled paper • Accurately read monitors and equipment calibrations • Detect odors • Feel vibrations, differences in surface characteristics, sizes, shapes
<p><i>Physical Strength and mobility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push or pull clients to ensure proper positioning • Support client during ambulation, lift for transfer • Move heavy objects, carry equipment/supplies • Defend self against combative client • Use upper body strength (CPR, restrain a client) • Squeeze with hands (fire extinguisher) • Twist, bend, stoop, squat, climb • Move quickly • Physical endurance to complete an 8 hour shift 	<p><i>Interpersonal Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate interpersonal conflict • Respect differences in clients • Provide client with emotional support • Establish rapport with clients and co-workers • Teach in an accurate and effective manner • Report client information to other caregivers • The ability to use the English language to communicate effectively in a rational, coherent manner, both orally and in writing, with individuals of all professions and social levels.
<p><i>Emotional Stability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish therapeutic boundaries • Provide client with emotional support • Adapt to rapidly changing environmental support • Deal with unexpected (crisis), handle strong emotions • Focus attention on task • Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently • Maintain behavioral decorum in stressful situations • Maintain adequate concentration and attention in client care settings • Maintain composure when subjected to high stress 	<p><i>Analytical Thinking Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer knowledge from one situation to another • Problem solve and prioritize, evaluate outcomes • Use short and long term memory • Identify cyanosis, absence of respiration and movements of client rapidly and accurately • Accurately process information on medication container, physician's orders, printed documents, medication administration/other medical documents
<p><i>Arithmetic Competence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read & understand columns of writing • Read digital displays and graphics printouts (I&O) • Calibrate equipment • Convert numbers to/from metric • Read graphs (vital sign sheets) • Measure time (duration), count rates (pulse rate) • Calculate medication dosages & IV solution rates • Use and read measuring tools (thermometer, scales) 	