

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

**Essential Function Standards Required of Nursing Students**

Students enrolled in Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health's School of Nursing are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students who may need accommodations or modifications to meet these essential functions are encouraged to contact the Dean Administrative and Student Services to maximize their success in the program.

**Standard I Cognitive and Conceptual Abilities**

Students must demonstrate the ability to read and understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurements, calculations, reasoning, and analysis. Students must also be able to apply the nursing process by demonstrating the ability to gather data, develop a plan of action, establish priorities and monitor treatment plans and care modalities. Students must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material and apply information and engage in critical thinking in didactic and clinical settings. Comprehending three dimensional and spatial relationships is essential.

**Standard II Behavioral – Social Attributes**

Students are required to consistently demonstrate empathy, integrity, honesty, interpersonal skills, interest and positive motivation. Students must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of sound judgment, and the prompt completion of responsibilities required for patient care. The development of mature, culturally sensitive, and effective relationships with patients is essential. Students must possess adequate endurance and strength to function effectively under stress for extended periods. Students must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function under conditions of uncertainty inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Students are expected to accept appropriate suggestions and criticisms, and to respond by modifying their behavior appropriately.

**Standard III Communication Abilities**

Students must communicate effectively and efficiently in English with patients, families and other health care providers and demonstrate clarity verbally, non-verbally and in writing. Other required abilities include speech, hearing, reading, writing, language skills and computer literacy. Students must be able to identify communication barriers and use appropriate resources to facilitate effective communication.

**Standard IV Sensory Function**

Students must have sufficient abilities to gather data from written reference materials, oral presentations, demonstrations, and observations of patients and their environment. Students must be able to observe a patient accurately and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessments and interventions or administering medications.

**Standard V Motor Function**

Students are required to have sufficient motor function to execute movements required to provide general patient care. Students must be able to use equipment competently and respond promptly to emergencies. In addition students must have the ability to care for patients of all ages. Manual dexterity is required in clinical course work.

Students must meet the Physical requirements of the clinical sites used by the College. The clinical sites currently utilized by the College are part of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. The Department of Health Services require nurses working in its facilities to meet the standard of Physical Class 3.

*[The definition for a Physical Class 3 - Moderate: Includes standing or walking most of the time, with bending, stooping, squatting, twisting, and reaching; includes working on irregular surfaces, occasionally lifting objects weighing over 25 pounds, and frequently lifting 10-25 pounds.]*