

Walden University School of Nursing Technical Standards Policy for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs

TECHNICAL STANDARDS NECESSARY TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE BSN, MSN AND DNP PROGRAMS AT WALDEN UNIVERSITY

Walden University's School of Nursing programs are designed to educate nurses for today's professional environment by developing the skills of reflection, independent learning, and enhanced critical thinking that will enable students to graduate from its programs and better equip graduates to advance their careers, develop leadership skills and stay current in their field throughout their career. Students enrolled in Walden School of Nursing programs must establish professional relationships both within and outside of the university setting and may be required to work actively and physically both in the classroom and with other practitioners and patients in a professional setting during field experiences. Therefore, the following list of technical standards are provided to clearly establish the level of capability required to successfully complete Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs of study and to encourage current and prospective students to self-assess their qualifications for the program.

The School of Nursing encourages any student who may not be able to meet these standards due to a disability to contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss reasonable accommodations. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment of to an instructional activity, equipment, facility, program or service that enables a qualified student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to fulfil the requirements necessary for graduation from the nursing program.

Students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs must meet technical standard requirements in the following areas (examples are not all-inclusive):

1. MOTOR and MOBILITY FUNCTION

2. BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL FUNCTION

3. CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

4. INTERPERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

5. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Students are advised that their success in their chosen program may be dependent on an ability to meet these technical standards.

1. MOTOR and MOBILITY FUNCTION

Students must be able to perform the following functions:

- Ability to observe patient condition and responses to health and illness'
- Coordinate both gross and fine motor muscular movements, maintain equilibrium, and functionally use the senses of touch and vision
- Maintain stamina and physical ability required to participate in classes and activities which are part of the curriculum
- Execute motor movements sufficient to communicate effectively in a written format
- Obtain and interpret data from assessment techniques such as observation, palpation of anatomical structures, percussion, noting surface characteristics, assessment of tone, temperature, depth, and other diagnostic procedures
- Travel to clinical education sites

2. BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL FUNCTION

Students must be able to perform the following functions:

- Maintain the mental acuity and professional demeanor in stressful environments or during impending deadlines
- Maintain the mental acuity and professional demeanor sufficient to complete timed written, oral examinations, and laboratory practical assessments within established time limits especially when speed of performance or speed of decision making is a critical component

3. CRITICAL THINKING and COGNITION SKILLS

Students must be able to perform the following functions:

- Analyze and synthesize data from a variety of sources
- Put research findings into practice
- Exhibit a positive, interactive response to feedback
- Use sound judgment and apply safety precautions as appropriate
- demonstrate higher-level cognitive abilities, which include:
 - Rational thought
 - Measurement
 - Calculation
 - Conceptualization
 - Analysis
 - Synthesis
 - Organization
 - Memory
 - Application
 - Clinical reasoning
 - Ethical reasoning
 - Sound judgment

4. INTERPERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Students must be able to perform the following functions:

- Interact appropriately with individuals and groups from a variety of social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
- Actively participate and contribute to group projects
- Consistently display integrity, honesty, empathy, caring, fairness, respect for self and others, diligence, and dedication
- Promptly complete all assignments and responsibilities
- Develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships, not only with patients but with all members of the university community and other healthcare teams
- Tolerate emotionally and mentally demanding workloads
- Identify potentially violent or abusive situations with patients in order to safely withdraw from the interaction
- Function effectively under stress, and proactively make use of available resources to help maintain both physical and mental health
- Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and be able to learn in the face of uncertainty
- Take responsibility for themselves and their behaviors

5. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Students must be able to perform the following functions:

- Communicate effectively in verbal and written form in any applicable setting including communications with university faculty and staff, other students, and other health care professionals
- Elicit, convey and clarify information in a timely manner
- Complete written work at a professional level in a timely manner
- Document patient/client assessment/evaluation, intervention plans and progress notations succinctly and in a time frame similar to clinical constraints
- Achieve basic technical competency required to function in the classroom and professional setting including functionality in word processing, email, and use of the Internet
- Effectively describe perceived changes and perceive non-verbal communication

Walden University is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities. A qualified student is a student with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodations, meets the technical standards requirements for the participation in SON programs and activities. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) program applicants and students who need reasonable accommodations to meet these requirements due to functional limitations caused by a disability, should contact disability@mail.waldenu.edu at the earliest opportunity to

discuss available options. Students requesting disability accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services prior to the start of their program, or as soon as possible if their personal situation changes and they are in need of disability accommodations.

Technical Standards Policy & Clinical Site Acknowledgement Form

Applicable for the following programs; BSN, MSN, and DNP

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

As a student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, you will establish professional relationships both within and outside of the university setting and may be required to work actively and physically both in the classroom and with other practitioners and patients in a professional setting. Students admitted to the School of Nursing at Walden University must meet technical standards requirements which are essential in order to progress in and graduate from the Master of Science in Nursing program.

You must meet technical standards in the following areas (or be eligible for disability accommodations that would permit you to meet the requirements): **Motor and Mobility Function; Behavioral/Emotional Function; Critical Thinking Skills; Interpersonal and Professional Skills; Communications Skills** (*see Walden University School of Nursing Technical Standards Policy for details*).

FIELD SITE REQUIREMENTS

The ability for a student to complete a required practicum in each state depends upon the statutes and regulations of that state. If a student intends to complete a practicum in a state other than his/her state of residence at the time of enrollment, it is the student's responsibility to know and understand the statutes and regulations of that state and whether completion of the required practicum is permitted. Students must be licensed in the state in which they intend to complete the practicum requirements.

By accepting admission and enrolling in the program, you acknowledge that you understand, meet, and will continue to meet the Walden University School of Nursing's Technical Standards Policy requirements and have identified potential clinical sites in a state in which you are eligible to practice. Further you acknowledge that in the event your personal or professional circumstances change, you will immediately notify Academic Advising.

Printed Name (*as it appears on application*)

Signature

Date

**If you require an accommodation to complete any of the technical standards, it's your responsibility to contact the Disability Services Office (disability@mail.waldenu.edu 612-312-1205 or 1-800-925-3368 x312-1205) to determine if reasonable accommodations can be made. There may be certain physical requirements and standards of performance that the School of Nursing programs cannot accommodate.*