

Youngstown State University  
Department of Nursing

**Nursing Student Essential Functions/Abilities for Admission and Progression**

Certain functional abilities are essential for the nursing student to deliver safe, effective nursing care. These abilities are essential because they constitute core components of nursing practice, and there is a high probability that negative consequences will result for patient/clients under the care of nurses who fail to demonstrate these abilities. Essential functions/abilities are listed below, but this list is not meant to be exhaustive.

<b>Visual Ability</b>	Acute visual skills necessary to detect signs and symptoms, body language of patient, color of wounds and drainage, and possible infections anywhere. Interpret written word accurately, and read small characters or numbers on a syringe or medication package.
<b>Hearing Ability</b>	Auditory ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for nursing care.  Examples include ability to hear monitor alarms, emergency alarms, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help.
<b>Tactile Ability</b>	Sense of touch sufficient to perform physical assessment without an intermediary.  Examples include sensitivity to heat, cold, pain, pressure, and ability to collect assessment data through palpation and percussion.
<b>Motor Abilities</b> <b>Fine motor</b> <b>Gross motor</b>	Gross and fine motor abilities including physical ability, coordination and dexterity sufficient for providing safe and effective nursing care without an intermediary.  Ability to execute motor activities in a confined space reasonably required to provide physical care and to provide emergency treatment to patients.  Examples include administering intravenous, subcutaneous, enteral, medications; venipuncture; using sterile technique to insert urinary catheter; calibrating or using equipment; applying and removing protective equipment; and performing CPR.
<b>Mobility</b>	Physical ability, flexibility, and endurance to stand for prolonged periods of time, move from room to room (up to 8-12 hours), respond quickly to an emergency situation and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.  <b>Ability to lift loads in excess of twenty-five pounds with appropriate lifting technique.</b> Assist patients in transferring, ambulating, and/or move equipment without injury to self or others.
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	

<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Critical thinking ability sufficient for problem-solving and clinical judgment. Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations and develop nursing care plans.
<b>Clinical Judgment</b>	Assess risks and provide for patient safety. Consider multiple priorities and make effective decisions quickly.
<b>Mental Alertness</b>	Constant mental awareness necessary to be attentive to the patient's clinical condition and the environment in which the nurse is functioning in at all times to: work with potential hazards (blood borne pathogens and tuberculosis), follow standard precautions to prevent exposures, provide patient care safely and effectively in environment with excessive auditory and visual stimuli (e.g. an intensive care or emergency department with audible and visual alarms).
<b>Comprehension</b>	Comprehend and process instructions readily. Engage in written and oral directives related to patient care, focusing and remembering information given by faculty to assimilate and apply to patient care. Perform math calculations.
<b>Communication Ability</b> Verbal Nonverbal	Communicate effectively in interactions with others verbally, nonverbally and in written form.  Examples include effective reading and writing skills for patient communication, patient education, record keeping, and professional healthcare team interaction.
<b>Behavioral Ability</b> Emotional Function Under Stress	Behavior demonstrating the emotional health required for full use of intellectual abilities; exercising good judgment; completing responsibilities promptly; developing a mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and families; adapting to changing environments; and function effectively under stress.
<b>Interpersonal Ability</b> Social Emotional Cultural Intellectual	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.