

Technical Standards

Students must continue to meet the required technical standards of nursing practice. Technical standards reflect the abilities required to provide safe, competent nursing care.

The student must have the

1. Communication skills in speech and writing, in the English language.
2. Speaking ability to be able to converse with a patient about their condition and to relay information about the patient to others.
3. Interpersonal skills to adapt and interact with individuals, families and groups from various socioeconomic, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
4. Hearing ability with auditory aids to understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face (to ensure that the nurse will be able to attend to a patient's call for help either softly or as a cry) and to hear high and low pitched sounds with a stethoscope.
5. Visual acuity with corrective devices to identify visual changes in a patient's condition/color, perceive depth of injections, or to see small numbers on medical supplies.
6. Sense of smell sufficient to detect odors.
7. Sense of touch sufficient to perform palpation, percussion, and distinguish temperature changes.
8. Strength and psychomotor coordination necessary to perform technical nursing procedures and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (at floor or bed level) including lifting and carrying (at least 20 lbs) and pushing or pulling an adult patient of average weight in a wheelchair or on a stretcher.
9. Motor skills requiring manual dexterity such as putting on sterile gloves, preparing medications in syringes, giving injections, or inserting various tubes and catheters.
10. Emotional ability to manage stress and adapt to changes in the environment or a patient's behavior/health status in an effective, therapeutic manner including responding to anger, fear, hostility, and violence of others.
11. Problem solving/critical thinking ability to:
 - a. Collect, read and interpret data.
 - b. Use the data to plan and implement a course of action.
 - c. Prioritize and adapt care.
 - d. Evaluate the action taken.
12. Stamina to fulfill the requirements of the program and customary requirements of the profession, e.g. sit, stand, stoop, kneel, climb and/or bend for a period of time and work in areas that are confined and/or crowded during a clinical experience which may last up to 12 hours.

Standards of Professional Conduct

Upon entry into the nursing program students are beginning their socialization into the profession and must abide by a strict code of professional conduct. The discipline of nursing requires a high level of academic and personal integrity. Students must adhere to the ANA Code of Ethics and Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice,

Louisiana Nurse Practice Act and DCC Student Judicial Code. Students are required to adhere to the policies and procedures of the college, courses and affiliated clinical agencies.

Students are expected to behave in a professional manner at all times while in the classrooms, learning resource laboratories and clinical agencies. An essential behavior of professionalism is developing an attitude of respect. All students are expected to interact in a manner that demonstrates respect for other students, instructors, administrators, clerical staff, agency employees and clients.

Behaviors that demonstrate professionalism include, but are not limited to:

- Attending each class and arriving on time.
- Turning off all electronic devices in class and clinical.
- Refraining from side conversations with peers during class.
- Communicating in a respectful manner.
- Meeting deadlines for all theory and clinical requirements.
- Maintaining confidentiality of clinical information.
- Being culturally sensitive.
- Being receptive to feedback and accepting responsibility for your own learning.
- Maintaining professional boundaries.

Legal Requirements

Patients have a right to expect that nurses entrusted with their care will be honest and trustworthy.

After acceptance to a school of nursing and prior to enrolling in a clinical nursing course, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) requires the student to complete a document asking the following questions:

1. Have you ever been issued: a citation or summons for, has/have warrant(s) been issued against you related to, have you been arrested, charged with, arraigned, indicted, convicted of, pled guilty/"no contest"/"nolo contendere"/ "best interest" or similar plea to, been sentenced for any criminal offense, in Louisiana or other jurisdiction?
2. Have you ever had a license to practice nursing or as another health care provider denied, revoked, suspended, sanctioned, or otherwise restricted or limited, including voluntary surrender of license - including restrictions associated with participation in confidential alternates to disciplinary programs? Have you had disciplinary action pending by a licensing board - other than by Louisiana State Board of Nursing - in any state or jurisdiction?
3. Have you ever been discharged from the military on ground(s) other than an honorable discharge?
4. Have you ever been diagnosed with, do you have, or have you had a medical, physical, mental, or emotional or psychiatric condition that might affect your ability to safely practice as a Registered Nurse?
5. Have you ever had a problem with, been diagnosed as a dependent upon, or been treated for mood-altering substances, drug or alcohol? Have you been diagnosed as dependent upon/addicted to, or been treated for, dependence upon medication?

If "yes" is answered to any of these questions, the LSBN will require additional documentation. LSBN requires fingerprinting and a criminal records background check (Louisiana Department of

Public Safety and Federal Bureau of Investigation) upon initial enrollment and again before licensure. Based on the criminal history record, the LSBN may approve the student to enroll in clinical nursing courses in accordance with the individual program guidelines, or the LSBN may deny, delay or otherwise restrict the enrollment of the students in clinical nursing courses.

If circumstances change for an enrolled student, the nursing school and LSBN must be notified. Approval from the LSBN will be required to continue in a clinical nursing course. A form should be obtained from the Charity Dean's office. Additional information can be obtained from the School of Nursing or the Louisiana State Board of Nursing at 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. The phone number is 225-755-7500.

DRUG SCREENING

Drug screening is required before a student can attend a clinical experience. The screening is done after admission and is at the student's expense. A positive result may affect a student's enrollment in the nursing program. Drug screening for cause, or at random, may occur during program enrollment.