

FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES ESSENTIAL FOR NURSING PRACTICE
CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO AND RETENTION IN THE NURSING PROGRAMS

A candidate for a nursing degree must possess functional abilities essential for nursing practice. Reasonable accommodations may be made for some disabilities. However, a candidate is expected to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

Fifteen Categories of Functional Abilities

Category	Description
Gross Motor Skills	Gross motor skills sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective nursing care activities
Fine Motor Skills	Fine motor skills sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills
Physical Endurance	Physical stamina sufficient to perform full range of required client care activities
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from place to place and to maneuver to perform nursing activities
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of client health care needs
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for accurate observation and performance of nursing care
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health care needs
Smell	Olfactory ability sufficient to detect significant environmental and client odors
Reading	Reading ability sufficient to comprehend the written word at a minimum of a tenth grade level
Arithmetic	Arithmetic ability sufficient to do computations at a minimum of an eighth grade level. It includes the following three concepts: <i>Counting:</i> the act of enumerating or determining the number of items in a group <i>Measuring:</i> the act or process of ascertaining the extent, dimensions or quantity of something <i>Computing:</i> the act or process of performing mathematical calculations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
Emotional Stability	Emotional stability sufficient to assume responsibility/accountability for actions
Analytical Thinking	Reasoning skills sufficient to perform deductive/inductive thinking for nursing decisions
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient to exercise sound nursing judgment
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups, respecting social, cultural and spiritual diversity
Communication Skills	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in oral and written form