

## **Essential Requirements of VN Students**

To enter into and to complete the Vocational Nursing Program, students must be able to meet the following emotional and physical requirements.

### **Emotional Requirements:**

The student must have sufficient emotional stability to perform under stress produced by both academic study and the necessity of performing nursing care in real patient situations while being observed by the instructors and other health-care personnel.

### **Physical Requirements:**

Students are required to travel to agencies, hospitals, and homes with unpredictable environments. Students need to have the endurance to adapt to a physically and emotionally demanding program. The following physical requirements would be necessary to participate in the clinical application courses in nursing:

Strength - Sufficient strength to lift, move, and transfer most patients; to restrain and carry children; to move and carry equipment; and to perform CPR, which requires sufficient body weight and adequate lung expansion.

- Mobility - Sufficient to bend, stoop, get down on the floor; combination of strength, dexterity, mobility, and coordination to assist patients; ability to move around rapidly.
- Fine Motor Movements - Necessary to manipulate syringes and IVs; to assist patients with feeding and hygiene; to write in charts; to perform sterile procedures and other skilled procedures.
- Speech - Ability to speak English clearly in person or over the telephone, in order to communicate with staff, physicians, and patients.
- Vision - Sufficient to make physical assessments of patients and equipment; to read medication label, chart entries and accurately read syringe calibrations.
- Hearing - Sufficient to accurately discriminate sounds, hear on the telephone, and to be able to hear through the stethoscope.
- Touch - Ability to palpate both superficially and deeply and to discriminate tactile sensations.
- Health - Infectious Diseases - Nursing is considered to be a high-risk profession for exposure to Hepatitis and other contagious diseases. Immunizations required by the School of Nursing reduce this risk for nursing students, but do not eliminate it entirely. Pregnant students need a physician's note to participate in the program. Pregnant students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester must submit a monthly physician's clearance to participate in the program. Students with impaired or deficient immune systems may be at risk for contracting serious diseases. These students must have physician approval for participation in clinical courses, and should discuss their situation with a Physician regarding the potential risk in the clinical setting.
- Health - Back Injury - Nurses are considered to be at high risk for back injury. Students with a history of back injury or disease are at added risk. Such students must have physician approval for participation in clinical courses, and must discuss their situation with the clinical instructor.

- Appearance – Professional dress, grooming, and hair style and color (no green, purple colored hair); **no visible piercings** except in the earlobe and **no visible tattoos**.

#### **Cognitive Requirements:**

- The student must have sufficient cognitive ability to listen, speak, read, write, reason and perform mathematical functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages, and fractions with or without a calculator) at a level that allows processing and understanding of materials and information presented either verbally or in written format

#### **DSPS**

- The DSP&S Office is committed to providing opportunities for students with disabilities to fully participate in all college programs. A variety of services/accommodations are available to students with identified disabilities. To arrange for an appointment contact the DSP&S Office at (760) 921-5489 or come to the DSPS office. (CL131)
- Any request for accommodations in the clinical setting or for off campus training should be referred to a DSP&S counselor. Keep in mind those individual institutions that host the College's clinical training programs may have their own rules and regulations that must be followed and not all accommodations that are requested may be feasible, permissible, or reasonable. Therefore, the DSP&S staff will work together with the students, the instructors, and the clinical institution/training program to determine the appropriate accommodations and to facilitate in implementing those accommodations.

