Associate Degree Nursing Essential Competencies

These competencies outline reasonable expectations of a student in the ADN program for the performance of common nursing functions. The Associate Degree Nursing student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a variety of classroom, lab and/or clinical situations while providing the essential competencies of the Associate Degree Nursing program. These requirements apply for the purpose of admission and continuation in the program.

The student must demonstrate the following competencies:

1. Extended walking and standing daily, ability to grasp, push and/or pull, ability to bend and stoop, moving quickly in response to an emergency, using upper body movements, ability to reach, reaching and/or lift, carrying and moving equipment:
   a. Students must be physically capable of successfully performing activities in both the practice laboratory and clinical practice area. Sufficient physical health and stamina is needed to carry out all required procedures. It is also necessary for each student to determine their physical capabilities and report to the nursing department any physical limitations that would restrict or interfere with satisfactory clinical performance.
   b. Each student must demonstrate fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.
2. Other essential competencies identified for nursing care include vision that allows detecting physical changes, hearing that allows responding to physical and verbal cues, a sense of touch that allows for assessment and palpitation.
   a. It is necessary, in order to observe, assess and evaluate clients effectively, for each student to have sufficient use of the following senses: vision, hearing, touch, and smell. Sensitivity must be demonstrated in the classroom, laboratory, and the clinical area.
3. Communication, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills are essential competencies for the nursing student.
   a. Students must demonstrate the ability to communicate both verbally and in written messages clearly and in a timely manner.
   b. Each student must demonstrate the ability to interact with individuals, families, groups and communities from a variety of emotional, religious, sociocultural/ethnic and intellectual backgrounds.
   c. It is mandatory that each student demonstrate sufficient judgment, critical thinking, and the power to assimilate, integrate, apply, synthesize, and evaluate information to solve problems.

A student who experiences any health-related occurrences (including but not limited to mental health disorder, pregnancy, surgery, a significant accident, diagnosis of an uncontrolled acute or chronic disease, or an acute exacerbation of a chronic illness) while enrolled in any RNSG course (or prior to starting any RNSG course) must notify their primary clinical instructor immediately (details of the incident/diagnosis do not need to be disclosed).
The student must obtain and submit a written release from the health care provider indicating compliance with the ADN Essential Competencies policy and that it is safe to participate in clinical activities. The student will be allowed to participate in clinical activities only after providing this release to the ADN program Department Chair.

This policy is for safety reasons for both the student and for patients in the clinical agencies. In the event that it is not safe for the student to perform clinical, lab or classroom activities, withdrawal from the course may be necessary due to inability to fulfill course requirements.

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