

## Technical Standards for Direct Clinical Practice Experiences

To enter and successfully complete the nursing program, students must be able to meet Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) physical and emotional requirements, as well as the agency requirements where students are placed for direct clinical practical experiences. By accepting admission and enrolling into the program, you acknowledge that you understand the annual health/physical exam requirement.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, you acknowledge that in the event your health/physical circumstances change, you must immediately notify the Academic Advising team.

In addition, students must be able to independently, with reasonable accommodations if approved, meet the technical standards below. Any student with a disability needing accommodations to perform the essential duties during direct clinical practice experiences should connect with the University Online Accessibility Center (OAC) [oad@snhu.edu](mailto:oad@snhu.edu) or call 866.305.9430 to discuss what accommodations would be reasonable. Students should contact the OAC as soon as they become aware of the need for accommodations and not wait until just before the direct clinical practice experiences start.

## Emotional Requirements

Student shall 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 preceptors and other health care personnel. Student shall be able to rapidly adapt to stressful situations and changing environments while maintaining professional conduct and standards. Student shall be able to perform potentially stressful tasks concurrently.

## Physical Requirements

Student shall have the endurance to adapt to a physically and emotionally demanding program. Any of the following physical requirements may be necessary to participate successfully in direct clinical practice experiences:

- 1. Observational Ability:** Student shall have sufficient capacity to make accurate observations, as well as interpret and document these observations in medical records.
- 2. Clinical Judgment:** Student shall be able to think critically and abstractly, assess, analyze, problem-solve and establish sound clinical judgments for safe patient care. Student shall also be able to respond promptly to urgent situations that may occur during clinical training activities without hindering the ability of other members of the health care team to provide prompt treatment and care to patients.
- 3. Strength:** Student shall be able to lift, move, push, pull and transfer most patients according to site requirements. Student shall possess the ability to independently perform nursing skills within a safe time frame and engage in activities over an extended period. Student shall have sufficient stamina to function for up to a 12-hour clinical experience in various settings. Student shall be able to perform CPR according to recommended procedures and professional standards.
- 4. Mobility:** Student shall be able to perform nursing skills with a combination of strength, dexterity, mobility coordination to safely assist patients and to move around physically and adequately in confined spaces.
- 5. Fine Motor Movements:** Student shall be able to perform nursing skills to manipulate syringes, IV's, medical equipment, perform sterile procedures, utilize electronic devices, and conduct other skilled procedures.
- 6. Communication:** Student shall be able to communicate clearly and effectively with others by sufficient interaction using verbal and written skills and electronic form completion.
- 7. Vision:** Student shall be able to assess, observe, identify, and interpret patients' health status, such as: non-verbal behaviors, dermatological conditions, and changes in signs and symptoms of health deterioration or improvements.
- 8. Hearing:** Student shall be able to adequately hear through a stethoscope to determine specific body sounds, monitor equipment alarms, and to determine between telephone and alarm systems. Student must be able to clearly hear patient voices or use assistive technology to hear and interpret patient speech. Student must be able to sufficiently monitor and assess health needs through hearing or utilizing assistive technology to aid with hearing.

**9. Touch:** Student shall be able to palpate both superficially and deeply and to discriminate tactile sensations.

**10. Professional Behavior and Conduct** - Student must be responsible and accountable in behavior and actions, demonstrating sound judgment consistent with the profession as described in Fowler, D.M., M. (2015). Guide to the code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements development, interpretation, and application. (2nd Ed.) American Nurses Association [ANA Code of Ethics](#); Nursing Student Handbook; [Ethics, Dispositions, Proficiencies and Professional Standards Policy and Procedure for Professional Practice Programs](#)

<sup>1</sup> Health/Physical Exam Requirements: Students must have completed a health/physical exam prior to participating in all direct clinical practice experience courses. If you are not current with this requirement, you will not be allowed to attend your direct clinical practice experience until you have submitted your completed health/physical form. Not submitting the form in a timely manner could delay your program progression.

**Please note that the Health/Physical Exam is not required at the time of MSN program admission.** Students will be notified when it is time to schedule their exam and submit the Health/Physical Examination Form. When directed, the procedure for Health/Physical Exam Requirements prior to direct clinical practice experience courses is as follows:

- Make an appointment with your healthcare provider for a health/physical exam.
- Submit a copy of the Health/Physical Examination Form to your healthcare provider to complete and sign. Also include a copy of the Technical Standards for the provider to review.
- Upload the completed Health/Physical Examination Form to your CastleBranch Account.
- If you have a disability that may interfere with your ability to perform the essential duties during the direct clinical practice experiences, make an appointment with the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss what accommodations would be reasonable for your direct clinical practice experiences.
- Save a copy of all documents for your personal files.