

The Technical Standards for Admission, Progression and Graduation (Technical Standards) are an integral component of the School of Nursing (SON) at the University of Mississippi Medical Center academic requirements that identify core professional nursing competencies in eight specific domains - critical thinking/cognitive competencies, professional relationships, communication, mobility, motor skills, hearing and visual skills, observation and tactile senses. Nursing students must meet all the requirements of the Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, in order to successfully progress through and graduate from their respective curricula.

Individuals interested in applying for admission to the SON are encouraged to review the Technical Standards to become familiar with the skills, abilities and behavioral characteristics required to complete the programs.

This list is not all-inclusive and all applicable skills cannot be listed. The School of Nursing reserves the right to determine other relevant criteria in order to preserve the School's professional and academic standards. The table below is adapted from the SREB Sample Core Professional Standards as developed by the SREB Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing Education.

Requirements	Standard	Example of Activities
Critical Thinking and Cognitive Competencies	Critical thinking ability for clinical judgment.	Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations. Use of the scientific method in the development of patient care plans. Evaluate effectiveness of nursing interventions. Accurately follow course syllabi, assignment directions, patient protocols, and any actions plan(s) developed by deans, faculty, administrators, or health care agency staff.
Professional Relationships	Interpersonal skills sufficient for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families, and groups	Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues. Capacity to engage in successful conflict resolution. Peer accountability.
Communication	Communication adeptness sufficient for verbal and written professional interactions	Explanation of treatment procedures, initiation of health teaching. Accurate elicitation of information from patients, family members/significant others, health team members, and/or faculty. Documentation and interpretation of nursing actions and patient/client responses.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient for movement from room to room and in small spaces	Movement about patient's room, work spaces, and treatment areas. Administer rescue procedures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe, effective nursing care	Calibration and use of equipment. Therapeutic positioning, moving, and transferring of patients. Perform and/or assist with expected nursing student procedures, treatments, and medication administration using appropriate sterile or clean technique (for example, medication administration, BLS, ACLS, CPR, insertion of catheters). Endurance sufficient to complete all required tasks during the assigned period of clinical practice.

Requirements	Standard	Example of Activities
Hearing and Visual	Auditory and visual ability sufficient for observing, monitoring and assessing health needs	Ability to hear monitoring device alarm and other emergency signals. Ability to discern sounds and cries for help. Ability to observe patient’s condition and responses to treatments.
Observation	Ability to make observations in connection with other identified professional nursing student competencies	Use and accurate interpretation of information obtained from digital, analog, and waveform diagnostic tools and other diagnostic tools that monitor or obtain physiological phenomena. Observation and interpretation of a patient’s heart and body sounds, body language; color of wounds, drainage, urine, feces, expectoration; sensitivity to heat, cold, pain, and pressure; and signs and symptoms of disease, pain, and infection.
Tactile Sense	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	Ability to palpate in physical examinations and various therapeutic interventions.

Source: Southern Regional Education Board. (n.d.). The Americans with Disabilities Act: Implications for nursing education. sreb.org/publication/americans-disabilities-act

All individuals will be reviewed based upon their own facts and circumstances.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center is committed to ensuring equal access to a quality education for qualified students through the provision of reasonable academic accommodations which support UMMC standards and academic integrity. UMMC policy provides for reasonable academic accommodations to be made for students with verified disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis as specified under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

UMMC provides reasonable academic accommodations to students on campus who request accommodations and who meet eligibility criteria. For more information or to request academic accommodations, individuals should go to the Office of Academic Support webpage and complete the Request Academic Accommodations online form.

Office of Academic Support
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