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REGISTERED NURSE TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The mission of SOWELA School of Nursing and Allied Health (SoNAH) is to serve and improve the health of individuals entrusted in our care by providing excellence in education and to prepare graduates to pursue higher education to become globally competitive citizens.

The Associate of Science Degree in Nursing (ASN) is designed to prepare students for immediate employment in the healthcare arena and enhance possibilities of transfer coursework to a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. Graduates will be eligible to write the National Council Licensure Exam for R.N (NCLEX-RN) and be prepared to enter the workforce as a registered nurse generalist. The technical standards discussed in the following chart define performance expectations that should be met for advancement through and successful completion of the Registered Nursing Program. These standards are not intended to discourage individuals from considering the Nursing field, but to provide an overview so that individuals can make a well-informed decision regarding their academic pursuits. It is the policy of SOWELA Technical Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities, health impairments, and other conditions. Individuals that would like to pursue a degree in this program and believe they may need accommodations are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Disability Services at (337) 421 – 6576 or email ods@sowela.edu.

ABILITY	STANDARD	Some examples of activities (not all inclusive)
Physical Demands / Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must have the ability to perform physical activities that require considerable use of your hands, arms and legs and moving their entire body. This will include walking, flexibility, finger dexterity, manual dexterity, arm-hand steadiness, trunk strength and control. • Student must be able to meet physical demands of profession to be able to provide safe and effective care to patients while maintaining safe and proper body mechanics for oneself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a full range of body motion including handling and lifting patients; bend, reach, pull, push, stoop, and walk during shift; stand for long period of time in one location with limited breaks. • Lift and carry a minimum of forty (40) but up to fifty (50) pounds (considerable physical strength and effort may be required perform daily job requirements). • Administering medications via various routes. (IM, IV, otic etc.) • Must have the ability to lift or pull 45-50 lbs. of weight, push less than 200 lbs. of weight, or push with assist greater than 200 lbs. of weight. • Perform CPR. • Employ manual hand and finger dexterity while working. • Perform fine motor skills; manipulate equipment and instruments; eye hand coordination.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform manual activities free from tremors and/or jerking motions to perform tasks safely without causing injury to self, team members, or the patient.
<p>Critical Thinking/ Observation/ Sensory/ Reasoning Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must be able to use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems. • Must be able to be attentive in the classroom, observe demonstrations and participate in lab classes. • Must have visual, auditory, and olfactory perception. • Must be able to problem solve. • Must be able to utilize information gathered on patient to assess the patient’s physical, mental, and emotional state, as well as creating nursing diagnoses, implementing plans, and evaluating all of the above noted. • Able to interpret and document data collected. • Ability to recognize when there is a problem or possible problem. • Make themselves aware of their surroundings by using their senses. • Minimize risk of harm to patients, and healthcare team. • Have tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate problem solving skills. • Demonstrate visual acuity (with correction if needed) within normal range (minimum of 6 feet) including peripheral vision and reading of fine print. • Have the ability to judge distance as well as special relationships and distinguish and identify different colors. • Detect and distinguish odors from patient and environment. • Auditory acuity (with correction if needed) that includes hearing voices and speech which may be impeded by PPEs and extraneous environmental background noise, auditory alarms, and auscultate body sounds via stethoscope. • Possess the ability to learn quickly and retain information without repetition of instructions. • Adapt to irregular working hours while maintaining alertness. • Respond quickly and in an emotionally controlled manner in emergency situations. • Be able to problem solve using conceptual, integrative, and quantitative reasoning skills. • Concentrate and pay attention to detail. • Recall previously learned material from prerequisite or concurrent courses and apply it to the daily practice. • Identify changes to patient’s cognitive and physical behaviors that may create unsafe conditions. • Calculate appropriate medication dosage. • Analyze and synthesize data and develop an appropriate plan of care. • Be able to feel vibrations (pulses), detect temperature changes, palpate veins, and any masses etc.

<p>Behavioral / Social Skills and Professionalism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must conduct self in a professional manner. • Must exhibit cultural/religious awareness and sensitivity in interactions with patients, colleagues, and supervisors. • Must be able to adapt effectively, displaying flexibility in environments with high tension. • Develop and improve skills in organization, prioritization, and time management methods. • Develop a professional character, including appearance and mature behavior to become an employable individual to provide the community with viable members of a workforce. • Function effectively within the nursing and interprofessional team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have discussions with individuals in work areas. Have good personal hygiene, professional conduct, and appearance. • Be willing to work with others building team skills. • Demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation. • Maintain client confidentiality. • Be an honest and ethical worker. Be pleasant with others and display a good-natured, cooperative attitude. • Be careful about detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks. • Be able to withstand unusual sights/odors while remaining professional and performing job duties. • Display emotional stability with the ability to handle stress, tolerate inconsistencies, and maintain a positive and professional attitude. • Exhibit accountability and responsibility in all actions and subsequent consequences or accolades. • Exhibit an increased awareness of civic values by putting others first and acknowledging individual differences while striving for equality and fairness with concern for those most in need.
<p>Communication Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must be able to communicate not only in speech but reading and writing in English. • Must be sensitive to multicultural and multilingual needs. • Practices civility when communicating with patients, families, and health care team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use English language proficiently to communicate with individuals of all professions and social levels. • Communicate in a rational and coherent manner both orally and in writing. • Able to read and write in English. • Give and follow verbal directions. • Provide verbal education to patients. • Address language barriers and use interpretive services. • Recognize verbal and nonverbal cues from patients. • Utilize therapeutic communication with patients and healthcare members.

<p>Working Conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have the ability to work in various environments. • Must meet work environment criteria at time of employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be free from any blood borne infections that may risk transmission to the patient, staff, or peers. • Recognize that work environment will include exposure to blood borne pathogens, diseases and toxic or caustic substances. • Wear mandatory personal protective equipment. • Withstand unusual sights/ odors while remaining professional and performing job duties. • Adapt effectively, displaying flexibility in environments with high tension to ensure patient safety. • Practice within your scope of practice and follow guidelines as set forth by the LSBN. • Collect and document data collected in appropriate areas.
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It is essential for students to perform these activities in the clinical portion of the program with or without reasonable accommodations. Students who have chronic illnesses or conditions must be managed and maintained on a current treatment plan and be able to function during a clinical day without impairment. Students are not required to disclose any chronic or recurrent illness and/or disability. Students, who identify potential difficulties or may not have the ability to meet these standards or perform these skills, should contact the Registered Nursing (ASN) program instructor, and communicate their concerns.

Should the concern be related to a documented disability, students are responsible for contacting the Office of Student Services to complete the necessary paperwork required. The Office of Student Services determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations. If the SOWELA School of Nursing and Allied Health (SoNAH) has concerns related to the reasonable and appropriateness of an accommodation given, will consult with the Director of Student Services for clarification and a remedy. For more information, regarding applying for disability services, please go to: <https://www.sowela.edu/student-life/student-services/disability-services/>.

SOWELA Technical Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title: Compliance Office
 Address: 3820 Senator J. Bennett Johnston Ave, Lake Charles, LA 70616
 Telephone No: (337) 421-6905 or 800-256-0483
 Email: complianceofficer@sowela.edu