

Nurse Education Department

Working Conditions and Technical Standards

The Nurse Education Department includes the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree programs of study and strives to create an inclusive environment that represents the diverse population of healthcare professionals and communities we serve. We value the uniqueness and potential of every learner and strive to create a culture of respect and equality. After reviewing the technical standards, any learner who believes they may need accommodation to fully participate and engage in the program should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Students must also contact SAS if there is any change in ability to meet the technical standards while enrolled in the program.

SAS works to promote access to ensure an accessible college experience for students with disabilities. Requests for accommodation can be made at any time.

Phone: 508-854-4471

Email: sas@gcc.mass.edu

SAS Office Location: Room 246A @ 670 West Boylston St. Worcester, MA

Working Conditions

Nurse Education students provide care to patients of all ages and in a variety of healthcare settings including acute care hospitals, sub-acute, chronic care, and the community. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, direct patient care, physical assessment, medication administration, wound care, positioning of the patient, handling of complex equipment, patient education, and attending to the emotional needs of patients. Successful completion of the Nurse Education Department requires the graduate to have demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to deliver patient care safely and competently.

Accordingly, Nurse Education applicants and matriculating students must meet the following technical standards.

Technical Standards

A.) Motor

The applicant/student must be able to perform patient care procedures and handle equipment, including the capability to grasp, assemble, and manipulate medication administration equipment, sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, wheelchairs, hospital beds, lifts, and patients. This includes turning and repositioning patients of varying weight according to individual needs, including transferring patients from bed to chair, and moving heavy, bulky equipment. The

student nurse must have the capacity to manually move equipment at various angles at heights up to six feet, be able to crouch down to the floor, accurately draw up sterile solutions without contamination, physically be able to administer emergency care based on assessment, remain still for long periods of time, properly wear personal protective equipment for extended periods of time, and to move around large facilities of great distances during a normal workday.

B.) Communication

The applicant/student must be able to detect and respond to patient verbal and non-verbal communication and acoustic signals on medical devices and equipment from a distance of up to 20 feet, understand, converse in, read, and write the English language in order to accurately, effectively and sensitively communicate with patients, instructors, and all members of the health care team.

C.) Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Qualitative Abilities

The applicant/student must be able to comprehend, integrate, and apply didactic concepts to the clinical setting. This involves physiologic measurements, mathematical computation, information gathering, interpretation and analysis of data, critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving. The applicant/student will be expected to synthesize information, solve problems and think critically to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations. The applicant/student will be expected to accurately observe patients from up to 20 feet, and within close proximity, correctly read syringes, medication labels, computer screens, digital, analogue or graphic gauges, scales, monitors, and written instructions, identify equipment and devices, and recognize biohazard fluids. The applicant/student will be expected to adapt procedures and sequences of activities to accommodate the changing status of a patient's condition and mobility, including assessing patient changes in mood, activity, and cognition.

D.) Behavioral and Social Attributes

The applicant/student must possess the reasoning necessary to exercise judgment, complete patient care responsibilities, and maintain effective relationships with others in classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical settings. Applicants/students must be able to remain alert, tolerate physically taxing workloads, and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and function in the uncertainties inherent to the health care setting. Compassion, integrity, accountability, empathy, interpersonal skills, dedication, and motivation are all-important personal qualities.