

Essential Functional Abilities for Nursing & Medical Assisting Students

Category	Essential Function
Visual	1. Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment
	2. Visualize different color spectrums and color changes
	3. Read fine print
	4. Read data displayed on monitors/equipment
	5. Detect non-verbal communication
Auditory	1. Distinguish muffled sounds heard through a stethoscope
	2. Hear and discriminate high and low frequency sounds produced by the body and the environment
	3. Effectively hear to communicate with others
Tactile	1. Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shape, sizes, location and other physical characteristics
Olfactory	1. Detect body odors and odors in the environment
Communication	1. Verbally and in writing engage in two-way communication in English
	2. Use qualified interpreters when appropriate to communicate with non-English speaking clients
	3. Interact effectively with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
	4. Communicate in a timely manner
Interpersonal Relationships	1. Work effectively in groups
	2. Work effectively independently
	3. Interpret nonverbal communication
	4. Express one's ideas and feelings in a clear manner
	5. Demonstrate behaviors that are age appropriate in relationship to the client
	6. Convey caring, respect, tact, compassion and empathy to clients and others
	7. Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress
Cognitive Thinking	1. Operate a computer to obtain, enter and transmit data
	2. Effectively read, write, and comprehend the English language
	3. Consistently and dependably engage in the process of critical thinking in order to formulate and implement safe and ethical decisions within the appropriate scope of practice in a variety of healthcare settings
	4. Demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations, including mathematical calculations

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Category	Essential Function
Motor Function	1. Handle small delicate equipment/objects without extraneous movement, contamination or destruction
	2. Move, position, transfer and assist with lifting and ambulation without injury to clients, self or others
	3. Maintain balance
	4. Respond rapidly to emergency situations
	5. Coordinate hand/eye movements
	6. Lift and/or carry objects weighing up to 25 pounds without injury to client, self, or others
	7. Stand, bend and walk, for prolonged periods of time while performing physical activities requiring energy without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self or others
	8. Function with hands free for nursing care and transporting devices
	9. Coordinate fine and gross motor hand movements to provide safe, effective client care
	10. Handle multiple tasks concurrently

Related LCC Policies and Procedures:

- Disability and Access Services [Documentation Guidelines](#)
- Administrative policies: [Section 237: Pregnancy](#), [Section 425: Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment](#), and [Section 430: Reasonable Accommodation](#)

Related LCC Nursing Program Policies:

- [Accessibility & Accommodations](#) for all nursing pathways: Nursing Assistant COC, all AN-DTA/MRP program options, and RN to BSN program

Related Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) policies:

- Policy 140: Transfer of Credit, Advanced Placement, Experiential Learning Credit, Articulation Agreements, and Technical Standards. [MAERB Policy and Procedures Manual](#). Updated September 2024.

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