

## WCU School of Nursing Core Competencies Acknowledgement

It is the policy of the School of Nursing and the College of Health and Human Sciences to adhere to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Students admitted to the School of Nursing are expected to be able to complete curriculum requirements including physical, cognitive, communication and behavioral core competencies essential to the functions of the entry-level professional nurse. These core competencies are considered to be the minimum and are necessary to protect the public.

An applicant for any of the degree programs in Nursing must be competent in the following areas: observation, communication, motor, and intellectual-conceptual. An applicant must meet the competencies in spite of any handicap with or without reasonable accommodation.

Examples of competencies for each of the areas are below. These descriptions are intended to be examples and are not all-inclusive.

### **Observation:**

An applicant must be able to observe a client accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation relies on the functional use of vision and touch, enhanced by the sense of smell.

### **Communication:**

Communication includes speaking, writing, reading, and listening to obtain information, describe changes, and perceive non-verbal communication. An applicant must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with clients and peers. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with clients, families, peers and other members of the health care team.

### **Motor:**

An applicant should have sufficient motor function to obtain information from clients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment techniques. An applicant should be able to execute motor movements required to perform general care and emergency treatment of clients including, but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medications, and manipulation of life support devices. These actions require coordination of both gross and fine motor muscular movements, equilibrium, functional use of touch and vision senses.

### **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:**

An applicant must be able to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills required of nurses. Essential intellectual abilities include measurement, calculation, analysis, synthesis, and clinical reasoning.

Candidates who believe they may have difficulty meeting the core competencies in one or more areas are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing for more information. However, students applying for admission to the program are not required to disclose any disability prior to admission.

After being admitted to their program, each student will be asked to submit a signed statement indicating the student is capable of meeting these core competencies. The signature form can be found in the respective program's Homeplace in Blackboard. This signed statement will be uploaded to CastleBranch and become part of the student's record.

If a student requires accommodation due to a stated disability, the disability must be documented through the Office of Accessibility Resources. Students need to be aware the first clinical nursing course will require demonstration of physical mobility skills such as lifting, positioning, and the ability to see and hear, etc. The student is responsible for initiating and completing the process with the Office of Accessibility Resources and providing documentation of the disability to the professor and requesting accommodation(s).

The Office of Accessibility Resources will provide the student with a letter of suggested accommodations for the student to give to the professor. Examples of reasonable accommodation might include use of an amplified stethoscope (purchased by the student) or extra time to take a test for a student with dyslexia. If the professor, student, and the Office of Accessibility Services cannot agree upon a reasonable accommodation the issue can then be taken to the Director of the School of Nursing, moving on to the Associate Dean as necessary. In each of these steps, the student's right to confidentiality will be protected.

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**Applicant Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Core Competencies*

I have reviewed the core competencies of the WCU School of Nursing. I state that I am able to perform without accommodation in each of the areas I have checked off below.

- \_\_\_ Observation Skills
- \_\_\_ Motor Skills
- \_\_\_ Communication Skills
- \_\_\_ Intellectual/Conceptual Skills

*Any areas I am able to perform only with accommodation are listed below. (For each area listed below the student must include how the student's ability to function may be affected.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*