



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing & Health Studies

Technical Standards: Graduate Nursing

Applicants for all graduate nursing programs, and enrolled students seeking these degrees, must possess certain abilities and skills deemed essential functions for the care of patients. These abilities and skills, as determined by the Georgetown University nursing faculty are:

- **Observation:** Students enrolled in the graduate nursing program must be able to observe demonstrations and simulations required by the master's curriculum established by the faculty, and be able to participate in such with adequate vision and other sensory modalities, including the senses of hearing and smell. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.
- **Communication:** Students must be able to speak intelligibly, and to hear sufficiently to affect an adequate exchange of information with patients, family members, and other health professionals. A student must be able to read and write English effectively in order to fulfill academic requirements, and to maintain accurate clinical records on patient care.
- **Motor:** Graduate nursing students are required to possess motor skills sufficient to elicit independently information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other manually-based diagnostic procedures. Students should be able to conduct laboratory and diagnostic tests, and carry out physical assessments. Students must possess motor skills required for their specialty's scope of practice, as defined by the relevant accrediting organization. (**See details at bottom of page.) The student must also be able to coordinate fine and gross muscular movements to treat patients in emergency situations. Emergency situations include any circumstance requiring immediate remedy.
- **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include an aptitude for rapid problem solving, the capability to access and interpret medical files independently, and evaluate physical examinations, and to formulate a logical care plan. Students must possess good judgment in patient assessment, and the abilities to incorporate new information, comprehend three-dimensional relationships, and retain and recall pertinent information in a timely fashion. The student must also be prepared to provide in-depth rationale for plan of care.
- **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Students must possess the physical and emotional health required for the application of his/her intellectual abilities and the employment of sound judgment in an appropriate and prompt manner. Students must be able to function effectively under physically taxing workloads, and in times of physical and mental stress. Students must display compassion, sensitivity, and concern for others, and maintain professional integrity at all times.
- **Program Specific Requirements:** In addition to the areas enumerated above, applicants and students must also possess any abilities and skills deemed essential for their particular program. These areas of enumerated skills and abilities are the minimum attributes required of applicants for admission to the graduate nursing program and of students who are candidates for graduation. The Georgetown University Department of Nursing is committed to accommodating the needs of students with documented disabilities, and will do so to the extent possible without compromising the essential components of the curriculum. Questions or concerns regarding these technical standards should be directed to the program director of the graduate program in which the student is enrolled or seeks to apply.