

ESSENTIAL ABILITIES FOR THE MORNINGSIDE UNIVERSITY NURSING STUDENT

The Morningside University Department of Nursing faculty have identified Essential Abilities required for admission and successful progression in the basic nursing major. Students are expected to meet these Essential Abilities and all progression criteria, as outlined in the Nursing Student Handbook, with or without reasonable accommodations. Students who are unsure of their ability to meet the Essential Abilities at any point during their academic program should contact their Academic Adviser to discuss the need for reasonable accommodations according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students may be dismissed from the nursing major if they are unable to meet these Essential Abilities even if reasonable accommodations are made. Please read this form carefully and then verify that you have been informed of the Essential Abilities and believe you will be capable of meeting them by signing this form. The signed form will be kept in the student's permanent file.

Essential Motor Functions

- Move to and from rooms, hallways, etc., and maneuver in small spaces
- Skills needed to safely move, lift, transport, etc., patients or equipment and meet the physical expectations needed to perform required interventions in the practice of nursing
- Sufficient fine motor skills needed to grasp/squeeze and manipulate small objects such as IV tubing, syringes, etc.
- Ability to walk and stand for extended periods of time
- Travel to and from academic and clinical sites
- Abilities necessary to meet course and program outcomes

Essential Sensory Functions

- Sufficient sensory ability (visual, auditory, tactile, etc.) needed to make sound clinical judgments
- Comfortable when working in close physical proximity to others (patients, students, staff)
- Abilities necessary to meet course and program outcomes

Essential Communication Skills

- Sufficient command of the English language, in order to read, retrieve, and comprehend information and health care terminology
- Communicate effectively with others (e.g., fellow students, faculty, patients, members of the health care team). Abilities include use of verbal, written, nonverbal, and information technology skills.

Essential Judgment Skills

- Adhere to academic and agency policies and procedures (e.g., safety precautions, emergencies)
- Intellectual skills needed for sound judgment and problem solving in order to perform required interventions in the safe practice of nursing
- Abilities necessary to meet course and program outcomes

Essential Emotional Skills

- Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments and situations
- Demonstrate the mental health necessary to safely engage in the practice of nursing as determined by professional standards of practice

Essential Behavioral Skills

- Follow policies and procedures required by academic and clinical agencies
- Demonstrate responsibility and accountability for actions as a student in the Morningside University Nursing program and as a developing professional nurse consistent with accepted standards of practice

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Essential Abilities necessary to become and progress as a nursing student at Morningside University and that I am capable of performing these functions with or without accommodations.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____