

POLICY

Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing

Title: Technical Standards for College of Nursing Program Admission, Retention, Progression, and Graduation

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the technical standards, which, in conjunction with the published academic standards, are required for admission to, retention and progression within, and graduation from The University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing.

II. POLICY STATEMENT – TECHNICAL STANDARDS

A student for admission, retention, progression, or graduation must be able to demonstrate, with or without reasonable accommodation, as defined in Section III, Accommodation, the following academic and non-academic abilities and characteristics defined as “technical standards” in six core areas:

- **Observation** – A student must be able to observe demonstrations in lectures, laboratories, and experiential learning (skills lab, simulation, clinical) settings. Clinical settings vary and include acute and community-based settings. He/She must be able to observe a patient accurately and completely at a distance and close at hand. Such observation and information acquisition usually requires functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensation.
- **Communication** – A student must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. He/She must be able to communicate effectively, sensitively, and efficiently with patients, their families, and other members of the health care team through oral, written, and electronic forms. Students will also be expected to communicate efficiently when in community-based settings which are non-traditional healthcare settings (examples, home health, palliative care, hospice,

public health, community-based health centers, faith-based centers, senior centers, mobile health units, schools).

- **Motor** – A student must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers necessary to complete a full physical examination. He/She must have gross and fine motor function sufficient to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care, procedures, surgery, and emergency treatment to patients in both traditional, acute care settings, and non-traditional community-based care settings. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and use of the senses of touch and vision. Candidates must independently maintain self-balance, while also providing support, balance, and push/pull movements for patients of all sizes in various settings.
- **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities** – A student must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom and laboratory instruction; small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; and the use of electronic technology. He/She must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit information across modalities. A student must recognize and draw conclusions about three-dimensional spatial relationships and logical sequential relationships among events. He/She must be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely manner with stressful distractors consistent with the healthcare environment. Nursing requires knowledge, skills, and an attitude whereby high-stakes situations can be adequately assessed, cues noted, an evidence-based care plan formulated, and clinical judgment used to promote health, identify risk factors, and provide restorative/rehabilitative care.
- **Emotional, Behavioral and Social Attributes** – A student must demonstrate the maturity and emotional stability required for full use of his/her intellectual abilities. A student must possess the emotional stability and health to exercise good judgment, complete all responsibilities, and tolerate the physical, mental, and emotional stress often experienced during training, academic study, and patient/community/population-based care. A student must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of the healthcare team, and to interact with patients, their families, and healthcare personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. A student must interact effectively, respectfully, and professionally with peers, faculty, and staff. A student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and long work hours, to function effectively

under stress, and to display flexibility and adaptability to changing environments. A student must be capable of regular, reliable, mandatory, and punctual, attendance for required class and clinical sessions. Students must complete all preparation for classes including didactic and experiential learning (skills lab, simulation, clinical). A student must accept responsibility for his/her learning; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes when necessary. A student must demonstrate sufficient interpersonal skills to interact positively with people from all levels of society, all ethnic backgrounds, and all belief systems.

- **Ethical, Professional and Legal** – A student must behave in an ethical, professional, and moral manner consistent with professional values and standards. A student must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice as a Registered and/or Advance Practice Registered Nurse in the State of Oklahoma. As such, students for admission must strictly comply with College of Nursing admissions/compliance instructions on reporting criminal offenses or disciplinary action taken against them prior to matriculation. In addition, a student charged with any criminal offense while in nursing school has an affirmative obligation to immediately notify the nursing program director. Failure to disclose prior or new offenses can lead to disciplinary action that may include dismissal.

III. ACCOMMODATION

The technical standards are not intended to deter from participation any student for admission, promotion, or graduation for whom reasonable accommodation will allow fulfillment of the program requirements. The College of Nursing is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

It is the student's responsibility to request a reasonable accommodation from the Student Accommodation Services (SAS). The College of Nursing Program, in accordance with University policy, will provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities, but is not required to make modifications that would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the program, service, or activity, cause undue hardship, or result in undue financial or administrative burden. Any requested accommodation that requires the College of Nursing Program substantively alter i) the

curriculum, ii) the requirements related to its Educational Program Competencies, iii) clinical skills activities, or iv) clinical rotations will not be considered reasonable.

IV. NOTIFICATION

1. Students for Admission

Any conditionally accepted applicant who cannot meet the technical standards as defined in Section II, with or without reasonable accommodation, as defined in Section III, Accommodation, will not be permitted to matriculate and will be notified in accordance with current policies on Admission to the College of Nursing Program.

2. Students for Retention, Promotion or Graduation

The skills and abilities required for admission are tied directly to those required for graduation. It is the responsibility of the student to immediately notify the College of Nursing program if they become unable to meet the Technical Standards at any point during enrollment as a nursing student. Any student who cannot meet the technical standards as defined in Section II, with or without reasonable accommodation, as defined in Section III, Accommodation, will not be permitted to continue in the program and will be notified in accordance with current policies on Progression within the College of Nursing program.

Policy Date: 7/17/2026

Council: Academic Affairs

Approvals by: SAS, Legal, Dean Craft

Date Revised: 7/14/2026

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Location: Student Handbooks

Website: Admissions & Respective Student Handbooks