

**Colorado Northwestern Community College  
Nursing Program**

**Minimum Functional Abilities Required**

A physical examination by a health care provider is required. CNCC encourages students to self report any functional ability deficit that would require accommodation to perform essential nursing functions.

Students enrolled in the nursing program must be able to meet the following minimum standards, with or without accommodation, for successful completion of the program:

A. Observation

- Observe lectures, demonstrations, research and practice situations in nursing.
- Observe health assessments and interventions, diagnostic specimens and digital and waveform readings to determine a client's condition and the effect of therapy. (Observation necessitates the functional use of vision, hearing, tactile and somatic senses.)

B. Communication

- Communicate effectively with clients, teachers and all members of the health care team. (Communication includes speech, hearing, reading, writing and computer literacy)

C. Motor

- Perform gross and fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength, mobility, vision, tactile abilities and sense of smell to carry out nursing procedures.
- Demonstrate sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- Perform basic laboratory tests (e.g., slide preparation) and patient care procedures (e.g., tracheostomy care, urinary catheterization, use of oxygen oximetry and glucometer).
- Execute motor movements reasonably required to provide routine and emergency care and treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of nurses are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, and opening of obstructed airways.

D. Intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities

- Read and understand written documents in English
- Solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, memory, analysis and synthesis.
- Synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a client's history, physical findings and diagnostic studies. The student must be able to use this information to develop a diagnosis, establish priorities and monitor treatment plans and modalities.
- Comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships.

E. Behavioral and social attributes

- Demonstrate full utilization of her/his intellectual abilities, emotional stability, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of clients.
- Develop mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationships with clients.
- Tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress.
- Demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the professional nursing and student honor codes.