

**Arapahoe Community College  
Nurse Assistant Program  
Guidelines for Minimum Functional Abilities**

## **Introduction**

The Nursing Assistant program at Arapahoe Community College has adopted the following minimum functional abilities for advising purposes. The functional abilities apply to all students in the Nurse Assistant program. Students need to be able to meet these minimum functional abilities, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of Nurse Assistant courses.

## **Minimum Functional Abilities**

### **1. Observation**

The student must be able to observe lectures, demonstrations and practice situations in Nurse Assisting. She/he must be able to observe health assessments and interventions, diagnostic specimens and digital readings to determine a client's condition and the effect of therapy. Observation necessitates the functional use of vision, hearing, tactile and somatic senses.

### **2. Communication**

A student must be able to communicate effectively with clients, teachers and all members of the health care team. A student must communicate with clients to elicit information regarding history, affect and activity; and to perceive nonverbal communications. Communication includes speech, hearing, reading, writing and computer literacy. A student must be able to report to members of the health care team and express appropriate information to clients.

### **3. Motor**

A student must have sufficient gross and fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength, mobility, vision, tactile abilities and sense of smell to carry out Nurse Assistant procedures. A student must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A student should be able to do basic laboratory tests and perform noninvasive patient care procedures. A student must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide routine and emergency care and treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of Nurse Assistant are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to stop bleeding, and opening of obstructed airways.

#### **4. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities**

The student must be able to read and understand written documents in English and to solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, memory, analysis and synthesis. Students must be able to collect data related to the relevant aspects of a client's history, physical findings and diagnostic studies. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend spatial relationships.

#### **5. Behavioral and Social Attributes**

A student must have the capacity to demonstrate full utilization of her/his intellectual abilities, emotional stability, exercise good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of clients. A student must have the capacity for the development of mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationships with clients. Students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. As a component of Nursing Assistant education, a student must demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to professional and student honor codes.

#### **Drug and Alcohol Policy**

1. The use of drugs classified as "controlled, Dangerous substances" unless prescribed by a physician for an identified therapeutic effect, is prohibited. Any student suspected of such use will be removed from classroom/clinical area and will be required to undergo urine and blood tests.
2. The use of alcohol and/or other drugs will not be condoned in the classroom or clinical facility. If at any time a question of inebriation or impairment becomes an issue, the student will be removed from any classroom/clinical area and will be required to undergo appropriate testing.

If the student refuses to submit to testing or if such tests are positive, the student is subject to immediate dismissal from the program. Any charges incurred are the responsibility of the student.