Alabama Community College System
Nursing Programs

Eligibility Criteria

Title II of the 1990 American with Disabilities Act provides comprehensive civil rights protection for qualified individuals with disabilities. The Alabama Community College System endorses the Americans’ with Disabilities Act. If you have a disability that might require special materials, services, or assistance, please contact the CCC Student Disability Services Office located in the Chasteen Student Center, Room 220 (Decatur Campus); Sparkman Building, Room 101 e/c (Huntsville Campus); or call (256) 306-2630 or (256) 890-4756.

The mission of the ACCS nursing programs is to prepare graduates to practice safe, competent, patient-centered care in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing health care system. Enrolled students are required to successfully complete both the academic and clinical requirements of the program. The purpose of the Eligibility Criteria is to delineate the cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills deemed minimally necessary for admission, progression, and graduation, and for the provision of safe and effective patient care.

Prior to enrollment in the nursing program, students are provided the Eligibility Criteria. If a student cannot demonstrate the following skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request appropriate reasonable accommodations through the Student Disability Services Office.

1. Sensory Perception
   A. Visual
      1) Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment
      2) Visualize different color spectrums and color changes
      3) Read fine print in varying levels of light
      4) Read for prolonged periods of time
      5) Read cursive writing
      6) Read a varying distances
      7) Read data/information displayed on monitors/equipment
   B. Auditory
      1) Interpret monitoring devices
      2) Distinguished muffled sound heard through a stethoscope or other assistive technology
      3) Hear and discriminate high and low frequency sound produced by the body and the environment
      4) Effectively hear to communicate with others
   C. Tactile
      1) Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shapes, size, location and other physical characteristics
   D. Olfactory
      1) Detect body odors and odor in the environment

2. Communication / Interpersonal Relationships
   A. Effectively communicate and interact with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
B. Work effectively in groups
C. Work effectively independently
D. Discern and interpret nonverbal communication
E. Express one’s ideas and feelings clearly
F. Communicate with others accurately in a timely manner
G. Obtain communications from a computer

3. Cognitive / Critical Thinking
A. Effectively read, write and comprehend the English language
B. Consistently and dependably engage in the process of critical thinking in order to formulate and implement safe and ethical nursing decisions in a variety of health care settings
C. Demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations including mathematical computations without a calculator
D. Satisfactorily achieve program objectives

4. Motor Function
A. Handle small delicate equipment / objects without extraneous movement, contamination, or destruction
B. Move, position, turn, transfer, assist with lifting or lift and carry clients without injury to client, self or others
C. Maintain balance from any position
D. Coordinate hand / eye movements
E. Push / pull heavy objects without injury to client, self or others
F. Stand, sit, bend, walk or otherwise move about for 6-12 hours in a clinical setting performing physical activities requiring physical energy without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self or others
G. Walk without a cane, walker, or crutches
H. Function with hands free for nursing care and transporting items
I. Transport self and client with or without the use of electrical devices
J. Flex, abduct and rotate all joints freely
K. Respond rapidly to emergency situations
L. Maneuver in small areas
M. Perform daily care functions for the client
N. Coordinate fine and gross motor hand movements to provide safe effective nursing care
O. Calibrate / use equipment
P. Execute movement required to provide nursing care in all health care settings
Q. Perform CPR and physical assessment
R. Operate a computer

5. Professional Behavior
A. Convey caring, respect, sensitivity, tact, compassion, empathy, tolerance and a healthy attitude towards others
B. Demonstrate a mentally healthy attitude that is age appropriate in relationship to the client
C. Handle multiple tasks concurrently
D. Perform safe, effective nursing care for clients in a caring context
E. Understand and follow the policies and procedures of the College and clinical agencies
F. Understand the consequences of violating the student code of conduct
G. Understand that being hostile and threatening to others is unacceptable and subjects one to discipline up to and including dismissal from the nursing program
H. Meet qualifications for licensure by examination as stipulated by the Alabama Board of Nursing
I. Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress inherent in providing nursing care
J. Adapt to changing environments and situations
K. Remain free of chemical dependency
L. Report promptly to clinicals and remain for 6-12 hours on the clinical unit
M. Provide nursing care in an appropriate time frame
N. Accepts responsibility, accountability, and ownership of one’s actions
O. Seek supervision / consultation in a timely manner
P. Examine and modify one’s own behavior when it interferes with nursing care or learning
Q. Safety is paramount in all health programs. Students shall not pose a direct threat to themselves or others. Direct threat is defined as a substantial risk of harm based on facts and that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through reasonable accommodation. A direct threat also includes an individual who knowingly engages in unsafe practices or disregards safety rules or procedures which results in a substantial risk of harm to themselves or others or in a substantial risk of damage to property.

Reviewed and Revised 2.2019, by Dr. Graham L. Sisson, Jr., Director, State ADA Coordinator and General Counsel, Governor’s Office of Disability and David M. O’Brien, Esq., ACCS Senior Associate Counsel