

### *Essential Functions Motor/Physical/Cognitive Strength for BSN-PL Students*

Essential functions define selected attributes and behaviors necessary for students to demonstrate in order to successfully complete their education and subsequently enter nursing practice. These essential functions are determined to be required for initial and/or continued enrollment in the BSN-PL Program.<sup>1</sup>

Students must be able to perform each of the following essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations. If you feel you may need a reasonable accommodation, contact [disabilityservices@aspen.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@aspen.edu) for assistance.

- Accurately calculate medication/solution dosages and any needed information specific to patient care.
- Demonstrate the ability to safely move a patient over 100 pounds from one surface to another using the appropriate level of help.
- Demonstrate safe body mechanics in the process of all patient treatments, including lifting and carrying small equipment (under 25 pounds), moving large equipment (over 50 pounds), and occasional overhead extension.
- Use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and other fine manipulation.
- Demonstrate eye/hand coordination for manipulation of equipment, i.e., syringes, procedures, etc.
- Stand and walk for six to eight hours/day.
- Bend, squat, and kneel.
- Possess auditory ability to interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, hear patient calls for assistance without facing the client, and the ability to hear slight changes in the patient's condition, i.e., lung sounds, bowel sounds, etc.
- Possess visual acuity to distinguish color, to read handwritten orders or data, view electronic monitors and scales in order to correctly interpret data, color shades, and reading calibrations on syringes, sphygmomanometers, and thermometers.
- Possess olfactory ability sufficient to detect differences in odor.
- Ability to conduct a physical assessment which includes performing palpation, percussion, temperature changes, complete physical examinations and other activities related to therapeutic interventions.
- Develop mature, sensitive, and effective therapeutic relationships with individuals, families, and groups of various social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
- Effectively and accurately document patient information.
- Communicate effectively and accurately in English using speech, reading, writing, language skills, and computer literacy. The use of appropriate nonverbal communication is also essential.
- Adhere to classroom and placement schedules and submit all clinical placement expectations in a timely manner.
- Work in an environment that puts one at risk for infection and meet all health and safety requirements to perform patient care in assigned clinical facilities.
  - Third-party placement sites may have health and safety requirements in addition to required University screenings.

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<sup>1</sup> Source of Functions are found at <https://www.sreb.org/publication/americans-disabilities-act>. This includes TX, FL, GA, and TN. AZ is not included, however these requirements are being applied to AZ through Aspen University's Policy and Procedures.

[American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(2008\). The essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice. Washington, DC. Purdue University Northwest \(2017\). Essential abilities standards policy](#)