NAC Technical Standards

**INTRODUCTION**

The TCC Nursing Assistant program is intended to lead a student in the eligibility for certification as a nursing assistant in Washington State. The TCC faculty have deemed these as the essential functions needed in nursing assistant education and in the profession.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

The practice of a certified nursing assistant requires the following functional abilities with or without reasonable accommodations.

**Communication**

Nursing Assistant students must be able to comprehend, communicate, and document information in the English language, and to communicate accurately and effectively with patients and their family members, instructors, classmates, and various health or educational team members in both clinical and classroom settings.

**Cognitive Ability**

Nursing Assistant students must have the capacity to develop and refine critical thinking, decision making and problem-solving skills that are crucial to be safe and effective in various settings. These processes involve learning from other individuals, written materials and multimedia presentations. Successful students must be able to comprehend, integrate, and communicate verbally and in writing.

**Assessment/Observations**

Nursing Assistant students must be able to detect, interpret, and communicate sounds related to bodily functions and detect audible alarm frequency and volume ranges of sounds generated by mechanical systems. Nursing students must be able to detect foul odors of bodily fluids or spoiled foods, detect smoke from burning materials, detect changes in skin temperature, and detect unsafe temperature levels in heat producing devices used in patient care.

**Motor**

Nursing assistant students must be able to perform patient care activities; transferring of patients in and out of bed; walking of patients; turning and positioning of patients; moving equipment to various heights; accurately reading the volumes in body fluid collection devices hung above or below bed level; disposing of needles in sharp containers; and manipulating small equipment and containers. Nursing assistant students must possess the ability to comply with all safety standards in all clinical settings including, but not limited to, infectious control precautions (standard, droplet, contact, air borne), and usage of fire extinguisher, and evacuation equipment.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Nursing assistant students must possess the capacity to communicate effectively, respectfully, and with cultural humility, with all individuals whom they encounter and to demonstrate behaviors associated with compassion, respect, concern for others, integrity, ethical behavior, sound clinical judgment, and accountability for their responsibilities and actions. Nursing assistant students must be able to accept supervision of an instructor, receive constructive criticism or feedback, and modify behavior based on feedback. Nursing assistant students must demonstrate the ability to adapt quickly to rapidly changing situations/environments, to uncertain circumstances and to withstand human trauma and its effects. Nursing assistant students must be able to function cooperatively and efficiently with others. Nursing assistant students must possess the personal qualities of integrity, empathy, concern for the welfare of others, interest, and motivation. Nursing assistant students must possess the emotional maturity required to exercise good judgment; and the prompt completion of all responsibilities associated with the care of patients. Nursing assistant education involves exposure to a wide variety of situations, so students must be able to demonstrate resilience in both classroom and clinical settings.

**Legal and Ethical Standards**

Nursing assistant students are expected to exhibit professionalism, personal accountability, compassion, integrity, concern for others, and care for all individuals in a respectful and effective manner regardless of gender identity, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other protected status. Nursing assistant students should understand and function within the legal and ethical aspects of the professional standards of practice, and maintain and display ethical and moral behaviors in all interactions with patients, faculty, staff, students and the public. Individuals whose performance is impaired by abuse of alcohol or other substances are not suitable for admission to the nursing assistant program. Nursing assistant students must:

1. Be able to meet guidelines established by healthcare organizations where they will be engaged in clinical experiences, and

2. Legally be able to be certified as a nursing assistant in the State of Washington.

As such, nursing assistant students must detail in writing, to the Nursing Assistant Program, at the time of application, any felony offense or disciplinary action on any previous or current licenses. If a conviction occurs after entrance, students are required to inform the Director of the Nursing Assistant Program, of any actions which might impair the ability of the nursing assistant student to obtain a nursing assistant certification or meet guidelines established by the healthcare organizations where they will be engaged in clinical. Failure to notify the Nursing Assistant Program may result in removal.

**Access services**

Access Services provides reasonable accommodations and support services for students with disabilities in accordance with the A.D.A. (as amended) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Access Services supports the social and identity models of disability, celebrating disability as an integral part of diversity on our campus. Our goal is to provide access and equitable opportunity in the classroom while promoting the use of Universal Design in our classrooms and beyond.

**To schedule a remote or in-person appointment:** Please email [access@tacomacc.edu](mailto:access@tacomacc.edu) or call 360-504-6357 or click [here](https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/academic-support/access-services/access_services) for more information.

*TCC is committed to equal access for all persons in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The College abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act.*