

Technical Standards & Essential Functions

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

According to the North Carolina Office of EMS (NCOEMS), the essential functions delineated below are necessary for Emergency Medical Science program progression and graduation and for the provision of safe and effective patient care. The essential functions include but are not limited to the ability to:

SENSORY AND PERCEPTION

Visual

- Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment
- Visualize different color spectrums and color changes
- Read fine print in varying levels of light
- Read for prolonged periods of time
- Read cursive writing
- Read at varying distances
- Read data/information displayed on monitors/equipment

Auditory

- Interpret monitoring devices
- Distinguish muffled sounds heard through a stethoscope
- Hear and discriminate high and low frequency sounds produced by the body and the environment
- Effectively hear to communicate with others

Tactile

- Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shapes, size, location, and other physical characteristics

Olfactory

- Detect body odors and odors in the environment

COMMUNICATION/INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

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- Verbally and in writing, engage in a two-way communication and interact effectively with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
- Work effectively in groups
- Work effectively independently
- Discern and interpret nonverbal communication
- Express one's ideas and feelings clearly
- Communicate with others accurately in a timely manner
- Obtain communications from a computer

COGNITIVE/CRITICAL THINKING

- Effectively read, write, and comprehend the English language
- 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
- Demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations, including mathematical computations without a calculator
- Satisfactorily achieve the program objectives

MOTOR FUNCTION

- Handle small delicate equipment/objects without extraneous movement, contamination or destruction
- Move, position, turn, transfer, assist with lifting, or lift and carry clients without injury to clients, self, or others
- Maintain balance from any position
- Stand on both legs
- Coordinate hand/eye movements
- Push/pull heavy objects without injury to client, self, or others
- Stand, bend, walk and/or sit for up to 24 hours in a prehospital setting, performing physical activities requiring energy without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self, or others
- Walk without a cane, walker, or crutches
- Function with hands free for prehospital care and transporting items
- Transport self and client without the use of electrical devices
- Flex, abduct, and rotate all joints freely
- Respond rapidly to emergency situations
- Maneuver in small areas
- Perform daily care functions for the client
- Coordinate fine and gross motor hand movements to provide safe effective prehospital care
- Calibrate/use equipment
- Execute movement required to provide prehospital care in all health care settings
- Perform CPR and physical assessment
- Operate a computer

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

- Convey caring, respect, sensitivity, tact, compassion, empathy, tolerance, and a healthy attitude toward others
- Demonstrate a mentally health attitude that is age appropriate in relationship to the client
- Handle multiple tasks concurrently
- Perform safe, effective prehospital care for clients in a caring context
- Understand and follow the policies and procedures of the college and clinical agencies
- Understand the consequences of violating the student code of conduct
- Understand that posing a direct threat to others is unacceptable and subjects one to discipline
- Meet qualifications for licensure by examination as stipulated by the North Carolina Office of Emergency Science (NCOEMS)
- Not to pose a threat to self or others
- Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress inherent in providing prehospital care
- Adapt to changing environments and situations
- Remain free of chemical dependency
- Report promptly to internships and remain for up to 24 hours
- Provide prehospital care in an appropriate time frame
- Accepts responsibility, accountability, and ownership of one's actions
- Seek supervision/consultation in a timely manner
- Examine and modify one's own behavior when it interferes with prehospital care or learning