

## Technical Standards for Admission, Academic Progression and Completion

The goal of Marion Technical College's Health Science programs is to prepare every student to think critically, and practice their chosen profession competently and compassionately in rapidly changing practice environments. All efforts are made to build knowledge, enhance patient safety, foster professional integrity, and ultimately improve the health outcomes of patients. In addition, certain functional abilities are essential for the delivery of safe, effective health care during clinical training activities. Therefore, the faculty has determined that certain technical standards are requisite for admission, progression, and graduation from the Health Science programs.

In addition to classroom learning, clinical learning occurs throughout most Health Science programs and involves considerations (such as patient safety and clinical facilities) that are not present in the classroom and skills labs.

**It must be understood that every health profession has a Scope of Practice published by state, federal and professional boards which include the physical and mental abilities required for each profession. For this reason, health science programs do not have open enrollment. Marion Technical College must reserve the right to deny entry to individuals who are unable to meet and sustain all technical standards and general abilities.**

**General Abilities:** The student is expected to possess functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell so that data received by the senses may be integrated, analyzed, and synthesized in a consistent and accurate manner. A student must also possess the ability to perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, vibration, and movement that are important to the student's ability to gather significant information needed to effectively evaluate patients. A student must be able to respond promptly to urgent situations that may occur during clinical training activities and must not hinder the ability of other members of the health care team to provide prompt treatment and care to patients.

Individuals unable to meet the published technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, are not able to complete the program. Therefore, such individuals will not be permitted to enter a Health Science program and are counseled to pursue alternate careers at Marion Technical College. The student must be able to independently, with or without reasonable accommodation, meet the following technical standards of general abilities and those specifically of (1) observation; (2) communication; (3) motor; (4) intellectual, conceptual, and quantitative abilities; (5) essential behavioral and social attributes; and (6) ability to manage stressful situations.

1. **Observational Ability:** The student must have sufficient capacity to make accurate visual observations and interpret them in the context of laboratory studies, medication administration, and patient care activities. In addition, the student must be able to document these observations and maintain accurate records.
2. **Communication Ability:** The student must have the ability to communicate effectively both verbally and non-verbally, to interpret information, and to translate that information to others. Each student must have the ability to read, write, fully comprehend, and speak the **English language** to facilitate

communication with patients, their family members, and other professionals in health care settings. In addition, the student must be able to maintain accurate patient records, present information in a professional, logical manner and provide patient counseling and instruction to effectively care for patients and their families. The student must possess verbal and written communication skills that permit effective communication with instructors and students in both the classroom and clinical settings.

3. **Motor Ability:** The student must be physically able to perform, without assistance, gross and fine motor movements with sufficient coordination needed to perform the full scope of practice in their chosen profession. A student must develop the psychomotor skills reasonably needed to perform or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medication, management and operation of diagnostic and therapeutic medical equipment, and such abilities to assist with patient care activities such as lifting, wheel chair guidance, and mobility. The student must have sufficient levels of neuromuscular control and eye-to-hand coordination as well as possess the physical and mental stamina to meet the demands associated with extended periods of sitting, standing, moving, and physical exertion required for satisfactory and safe performance in the clinical and classroom settings including performing CPR, if necessary. The student must possess the ability of manual dexterity that would be required for certain activities, such as drawing up solutions in a syringe or drawing blood from a patient.
4. **Intellectual, Conceptual, and Quantitative Abilities:** The student must be able to develop and refine problem-solving skills that are crucial to practice as a member of the healthcare team. Problem-solving involves the abilities to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize objective and subjective data, and to make decisions, often in a time urgent environment, that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation and sound clinical judgment. Each student must demonstrate mastery of these skills and possess the ability to incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the nursing and medical literature to formulate sound judgment in patient assessment, intervention, evaluation, teaching, and setting short and long term goals.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Compassion, integrity, motivation, effective interpersonal skills, and concern for others are personal attributes required of those in a healthcare profession. Accepting and being comfortable with functioning under supervision of a clinical instructor or preceptor is essential for a health professions student. The student must possess the skills required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment; the prompt completion of all responsibilities in the classroom and clinical settings; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team. Each student must be able to exercise stable, sound judgment and to complete all educational requirements. The ability to establish rapport and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds is critical for practice as a healthcare professional. The student must be able to adapt to changing environments; display flexibility; accept and integrate constructive criticism given in the classroom and clinical settings; effectively interact in the clinical setting with other members of the healthcare team; and learn to function cooperatively and efficiently in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice.
6. **Ability to Manage Stressful Situations:** The student must be able to adapt, and function effectively, to stressful situations in both the classroom and clinical settings, including emergency situations. The student may encounter various types of stressors while in their chosen program. These stressors may include (but are not limited to) personal, patient care/family, faculty/peer, and/or program-related.