

Technical Standards for Respiratory Therapy Program (page 1 of 2)

The following statements are given to provide the student with a description of the type of physical/technical standards necessary to complete the Respiratory Therapy Program. These standards are not measured as a requirement for Program admission. However, the student is encouraged to consider the physical and mental requirements of the Program and to make an appointment with the Program Director to discuss concerns or requests for accommodation for his/her disability. Students with documented needs for accommodations are to meet with Great Falls College MSU's Disability Services office.

In order to successfully complete the Respiratory Therapy Program, students must demonstrate their competency in carrying out tasks necessary for safe and effective practice in the field including routine part of the classroom, laboratory, or clinical education.

Observation/Sensory-Motor

- Accurately identify and assess heart, breath, abdominal, and other sounds of the human body & use of stethoscope
- Accurately assess normal and abnormal color changes in the skin and observe pupil changes
- Accurately differentiate colors and recognize patient odors including color codes on supplies, medications, and equipment.
- Detect and respond appropriately to activation/warning signals on equipment) including auditory and visual signals)
- Detect significant environmental odors, distinguish fine print on various medication labels
- Observe and assess conditions of a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe non-verbal communication when performing assessments and interventions or administering medications
- Observe and participate in all demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including computer-assisted instruction. Observe digital or waveform readings
- Perceive signs of disease and/or infection as manifested through physical examination including visual images of the body surfaces, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and auditory information (patient voice, heart sounds, bowel and lung sounds). Read gradients/calibrations on a syringe

Communication

- Accurately document treatment information
- Communicate accurately and effectively in English with other students, faculty, staff, patients, families and other professionals in a culturally sensitive manner
- Communicate effectively in classroom presentations, seminars, simulation, practicum sties, practicum conferences, and online-formats
- Convey or exchange accurate information in a clear and efficient manner to obtain a health history, identify problems presented, and explain alternative solutions
- Effectively communicate with and respond appropriately to other healthcare professionals' questions, requests, and directions in classroom, lab and clinical settings
- Process and communication information on the patient's status including changes in mood, activity and posture, and non-verbal communications with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team

Psychomotor

- Adjust and operate diagnostic or therapeutic devices by manipulating knobs, dials, and keyboards
- Answer patient call lights or intercom system to determine patient needs. Assemble medical equipment and supplies
- Conduct laboratory and diagnostic tests and carry out physical assessments
- Coordinate fine and gross muscular movements to treat patients in emergency situations
- Accurately manipulate fine objects such as needles, syringes, and other fine medical instruments.
- Engage in patient care delivery in all settings and deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, individuals with disabilities, medically compromised patients and vulnerable adults
- Execute physical movements required to provide general care and treatment to all patients in all health care settings from a variety of positions such as standing, sitting, bending, or stooping. Perform a variety of tasks at varying heights requiring physical agility. Maintain balance in multiple positions. Move within confined spaces.

- Correctly perform aseptic procedures such as disinfection of medical equipment, sterilization of medical instruments, management of sharps, and maintenance of proper protocols for management of bloodborne pathogens.
- Accurately palpate patient to determine differences in sizes and shapes, detect veins and arteries, and identify and palpate body landmarks.
- Accurately perform chart reviews and continuous assessment of patient's status using available technology.
- Move and position heavy and/or large equipment
- Operate equipment typically found in the health care environment including Ventilators, Oxygen equipment, IV pumps, cardiac monitors, humidifiers and electric and manual blood pressure equipment, safe handling equipment
- Perform basic life support, ventilation/compression (including CPR and AED), and other basic life support functions
- Perform inspection, palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers
- Perform or assist with procedures, treatments, and medication administration
- Respond to emergencies precisely, consistently, accurately, and quickly
- Safely assist a patient transfer. Ex. from bed to chair, bed to stretcher, chair to bed as needed
- Transport patients in wheelchairs as necessary. Turn/reposition bedfast patient

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative

- Accurately perform mathematical calculations and calculate medication dosages & IV rates from instructions given
- Analyze, collect, and synthesize data to reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments and to develop an appropriate plan of care. Demonstrate factual, conceptual, procedural, and metacognitive knowledge
- Effectively perform chart reviews and continuous assessment of the patient's status
- Effectively prioritize multiple tasks.
- Effectively take and record doctors' orders, patient histories, and subjective/objective findings
- Exercise good judgment in patient assessment. Maintain accurate clinical records on patient care
- Manage the demands of time constraints and frequent interruptions
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, synthesize and problem solve in the context of the level and the focus of their curricular program. Perform data entry tasks using available technology.
- Perform universal precautions against contamination
- Provide all aspects of patient care including medication administration and treatments according to nursing unit guidelines
- Provide clear expression of personal ideas and feelings, demonstrations of bidirectional feedback, and sensitivity to persons with ideas and experiences that different from their own. Provide in-depth rationale for plan of care
- Use and interpret information from assessment techniques/maneuvers such as those involved in assessing respiratory and cardiac function, blood pressure, blood sugar, neurological status, etc.
- Use and interpret information related to physiologic phenomena generated from diagnostic tools (sphygmomanometer, otoscope, ophthalmoscope) during a comprehensive examination of a patient

Behavioral and Social Attributes

- Abide by the professional standards of practice defined by the discipline
- Demonstrate compassion, sensitivity, and concern for others
- Demonstrate understanding and adherence to professional standards of nursing
- Function effectively under physically taxing workloads including in times of physical and mental stress
- Function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways
- Maintain appropriate professional decorum in high stress situations and when exposed to unusual sights and smells
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to all phases of work

I have read the above requirements and understand that my inability to comply with these may result in my failure to successfully complete the program I have chosen.

Signature _____ Date: _____