

## **TAMUCC CONHS ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION, CONTINUANCE, & GRADUATION IN THE ACCELERATED BSN PROGRAM**

The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC), College of Nursing and Health Sciences' (CONHS) Accelerated Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) signifies that the holder of that degree has been educated to competently practice nursing in all healthcare settings and to apply for RN licensure in the State of Texas. The education of a nurse requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment through patient care experiences in preparation for a) independent and, b) semi-autonomous and, or c) making appropriate decisions required in practice. The practice of nursing emphasizes collaboration among physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals and the patient.

The curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing from this School requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences essential to the acquisition and practice of essential nursing skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. In addition to being essential to the successful completion of the requirements of the BSN, these functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow candidates, faculty and other healthcare providers.

The essential abilities necessary to acquire or demonstrate competence in a discipline as complex as nursing and needed for successful admission and continuance by candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing within the TAMUCC CONHS, include but are not limited to the following abilities:

### **Motor Skills**

Candidates should have sufficient motor function so they are able to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings. [For example: For the safety and protection of the patients, the candidate must be able to perform basic life support, including CPR, and function in an emergency situation. The candidate must have the ability, within reasonable limits, to safely assist a patient in moving, for example, from a chair to a bed, or from a wheelchair to a commode.]

### **Sensory/Observation**

A candidate must be able to acquire the information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and nursing sciences. He or she must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessment and intervention or administering medications. The candidate must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. Such information is derived from images of the body surfaces, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and auditory information (patient voice, heart tones, bowel and lung sounds).

### **Communication**

The candidate must communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. He or she must express his or her ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. A candidate must be able to: convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms. The candidate must be able to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy and in a timely manner to members of the health care team. The appropriate communication may also rely on the candidate's ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

### **Cognitive**

A candidate must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize in the context of undergraduate nursing study. The candidate must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive

written material. He or she must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.

### **Behavioral/Emotional**

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. In addition, s/he must be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under all circumstances including highly stressful situations. The candidate must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. The candidate must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. The candidate must know that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others. The candidate must be able and willing to examine and change his or her behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships. The candidate must possess skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments.

### **Professional Conduct**

Candidates must possess the ability to reason morally and practice nursing in an ethical manner.

Candidates must be willing to learn and abide by professional standards of practice. S/he must possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility and tolerance.

Candidates must be able to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients, and vulnerable adults.

### **Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities**

Upon admission, a candidate who discloses a disability and requests accommodation may be asked to provide documentation of his or her disability for the purpose of determining appropriate accommodations, including modification to the program. The School will provide reasonable accommodations, but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program or provide auxiliary aids that present an undue burden to the School. To matriculate or continue in the curriculum, the candidate must be able to perform all the essential functions either with or without accommodation. Requests for accommodation should be directed to:

Disability Services  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5717  
116 Corpus Christi Hall  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5717  
[disability.services@tamucc.edu](mailto:disability.services@tamucc.edu)  
Main Office phone: 361.825.5816