

Health Sciences Division Technical Standards

Required of Applicants and Students for Admission and Progression — All Health Sciences Programs

Purpose

This document establishes a single, division-wide set of Technical Standards. These are essential non-academic functions every student must be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodation. These apply across all Health Sciences Division programs at Spartanburg Community College (SCC).

Students must be able to perform these essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation, such as compensatory techniques and/or assistive devices and must be able to demonstrate the ability to become proficient in each.

How to Use This Document

Section 1 below contains the Technical Standards common to every Health Sciences Division program.

Section 2 contains division-wide health, safety, and eligibility requirements.

Section 3 lists program-specific technical standards and notable variations — including programs with different weight/endurance thresholds, additional categories, or a different assessment format organized by program.

Section 1: Division-Wide Technical Standards

Essential Function	Technical Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities (not all-inclusive)	Yes	No
Critical Thinking / Intellectual Ability	Critical thinking and intellectual ability sufficient for clinical/placement judgment, including the ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information; perform necessary calculations; and make decisions.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; evaluate patient or equipment responses; synthesize data and draw sound conclusions; make appropriate judgment decisions in an emergency or where a situation is not clearly governed by specific guidelines; perform calculations relevant to clinical practice.		
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish and maintain rapport with patients, families, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team; function as part of a team; use therapeutic communication (attending, clarifying, coaching, facilitating, teaching).		
Communication Ability	Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction with others in expressive and written English, including computer literacy.	Explain treatment/care procedures; initiate health teaching; document and interpret clinical actions, instructions, and patient responses; disseminate information relevant to patient and work duties; listen attentively; exhibit command of the English language.		

Physical Endurance	Remain continuously on task for several hours while standing, sitting, walking, lifting, bending, and/or transporting patients/clients.	Stand or walk for extensive periods, including shifts of 8 hours or more; reposition, ambulate, and assist patients with activities of daily living; work under stressful conditions and irregular hours.		
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from area to area and maneuver in small spaces; full range of motion; manual, finger, and wrist dexterity; and hand-eye coordination.	Move around in treatment rooms, workspaces, and small areas; administer cardiopulmonary procedures; evacuate or transport patients in an emergency; reach, stoop, bend, kneel, and crouch; withstand long hours of standing and walking.		
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient/client care and operate equipment.	Calibrate and use equipment; position, lift, and move patients; demonstrate manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination; maintain balance; lift and carry a minimum of 50 pounds. Also see program-specified lift requirements (see Program-Specific Standards Section 3).		
Adequate Height	Ability to reach and operate overhead and elevated equipment.	Adjust overhead lights and wall-mounted monitors/gauges; reach and manipulate equipment located on elevated counters, shelving, or workstations.		
Hearing / Auditory Ability	Auditory ability sufficient to access direct and non-direct essential patient information.	Hear equipment alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help, and verbal instructions relevant to patient care, including phone and intercom conversations.		
Visual Ability	Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for patient/client observation, assessment, and/or treatment, including the ability to discriminate between subtle changes in density or color in low light.	Observe and assess patient responses, secretions, and test results; read charts, gauges, digital printouts, labels, and computer screens; differentiate cells, organisms, or images as required by the program.		
Tactile Ability	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Perform palpation and functions of physical examination, or those related to therapeutic intervention (e.g., phlebotomy, insertion of a catheter, assessment of temperature or skin condition).		
Olfactory Ability	Olfactory senses (smell) sufficient for maintaining environmental safety and patient/client needs.	Distinguish and tolerate odors contributory to assessing or maintaining a patient's health status or environmental safety (e.g., smoke, infection, contamination).		
Environmental Tolerance	Ability to work effectively in healthcare and clinical settings, including exposure to variable conditions and occupational hazards.	Tolerate temperature changes, noise, frequent contact with bodily fluids, and other hazards where there is danger to body or health; implement standard/universal precautions appropriate to the clinical setting.		

Professional Presentation	Ability to present a professional appearance and attitude; demonstrate the emotional health and stability required to exercise good judgment; and implement measures to maintain one's own physical and mental health.	Display a polished, neat appearance; use tact and discretion; Ability to adhere to clinical site placement standards and norms as it relates to grooming, appearance, and personal hygiene. The goal being to create a pleasant/safe work environment.		
Behavioral and Social Attributes	Possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities, the ability to exercise good judgment, the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities and development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients and other members of the healthcare team. Possess the ability to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical settings with patients. Possess compassion, integrity, concern for others and motivation. Possess ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and strong work ethics.	Management of heavy academic/clinical schedules and deadlines. Be able to work in a fast paced, potentially stressful lab/clinical/work situations. - At college level handle stresses of an intense nature in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting. - At the clinical level possess the flexibility to adjust and react to rapid changes in patient status and respond appropriately. Display flexibility. Sustain professional activities for protracted periods under conditions of physical or emotional stress. Accepts responsibility and accountability for one's own actions. Develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with clients and others. Demonstrate emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment. Demonstrate integrity, concern for others, and interpersonal skills.		
Intellectual	Ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information and make decisions. Ability to perform mathematical calculations.	Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medication orders, medical records, and professional literature. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize, exercise good judgment and complete tasks within required time limits. Possess the ability to successfully calculate mathematical medication problems relevant to clinical situations. Retain information. Apply knowledge to new situations and problem-solving scenarios.		
Self-Care	Ability to present professional appearance and implement measures to maintain own health and not place patients in jeopardy.	Implement standard precautions. Use good personal hygiene. Wear aseptic garb comfortably. Have no skin lesions or irritations. i.e.: rashes, open lesions or wounds, flaking dandruff, psoriasis, eczema, blisters, etc.		

If NO is answered to any of the technical standards above, describe which standard(s) cannot be met and why:

Can the standard(s) be met with reasonable accommodation(s) or the provision of an auxiliary aid/service?
_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, list the accommodation(s) necessary:

Note: Students requiring reasonable accommodation should contact Student Disabilities Services, P. Dan Hull Building, Room E4, at (864) 592-4818.

Section 2: Division-Wide Health, Safety & Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the Technical Standards above, applicants and students in Health Sciences Division programs must meet the following baseline health, safety, and eligibility requirements:

- Be free from chemical or substance abuse, and free from any dangerous or unlawful chemical as defined by the laws of the United States or the State of South Carolina.
- Be free from communicable diseases and/or conditions not manageable with standard/universal precautions.
- Demonstrate immunity, declination (where applicable), or provide proof of vaccination, for: Rubella, Rubeola (Measles), Mumps, Varicella, Hepatitis B, Influenza, COVID-19, and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP/Tdap).
- Provide current tuberculosis (TB) screening results: a current two-step PPD test, or a QuantiFERON-TB Gold test result.
- Pass a criminal background check and drug screening.
- Hold current Basic Life Support (BLS) certification through the American Heart Association (AHA)
- Be able to perform all essential job functions and tasks identified in Section 1 and any applicable Program-Specific Standards in Section 3.

Section 3: Program-Specific Technical Standards & Notable Variations

The categories below are common to every Health Sciences Division program. The notes that follow list each program's specific deviations, additional categories, or unique assessment requirements beyond the division-wide standards in Sections 1 and 2.

Nursing

- Demonstrate the ability to push and pull 200–250 pounds when repositioning or moving a patient in a bed, stretcher, or wheelchair, utilizing proper body mechanics and available assistive equipment.
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EMS / Paramedic

- Motor Skills threshold: must be capable of lifting 150 pounds independently.

Surgical Technology

- Must be able to wear a 2X surgical gown comfortably and have no skin lesions, irritations, or nail-biting habit.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS)

- Must be able to visualize objects at a distance of ten feet and is able to differentiate between black and white objects.
- Specific measurable tasks include: walk/stand for 8 hours; full use of both hands; visualize objects at 10 feet and differentiate black/white on a radiograph or ultrasound image; detect sound at 15 feet; lift/carry two 5-pound weights simultaneously for 5 minutes; grip a 1-inch-thick book for 1 minute; lift 25 pounds from floor to waist and extend it 12 inches from the body; transport an ultrasound system 50 feet; and push a wheelchair with a patient 50 feet.
- Must be able to lift 25 pounds from the ground to waist level and extend that weight out from the body at a minimum distance of 12 inches.

Applicant Acknowledgment

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read and understand the Health Sciences Division Technical Standards (including any applicable Program-Specific Standards in Section 3) and that I am able to meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Applicant/Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Program: _____