

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PROSPECTIVE DOCTORAL NURSING STUDENTS

You have met the **academic qualifications** for acceptance into the Creighton University School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Enclosed is the Creighton University School of Nursing "Safety and Technical Standards" form which is designed to validate your ability to meet the **cognitive, affective and psychomotor requirements** of the curriculum, with or without reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. **Your acceptance into the School of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice program is conditional upon receipt and approval of this form.**

Please read the Safety and Technical Standards very carefully and then complete the form and return it in the enclosed envelope within the next fourteen (14) days. It will be forwarded to the School of Nursing for review. If the "Safety and Technical Standards" form is approved, this condition will have been met. The School of Nursing will evaluate any request for accommodations to determine the adequacy of the supporting documentation and the reasonableness of the requested accommodation.

The School of Nursing will provide you written notice; usually within fourteen (14) days from the date the completed form is received in the School of Nursing, stating whether the School has approved your "Safety and Technical Standards" form, and that your conditional acceptance into the School of Nursing will become final on that date. If the School of Nursing has any concerns or issues with your "Safety and Technical Standards" form, the School of Nursing will send you a follow-up letter, addressing the issues raised by the Safety and Technical Standards" form, and the status of your conditional admission into the School of Nursing.

You will also be asked to reconfirm your validation of the Safety and Technical Standards when you receive the yearly update of the Student Handbook.

**Creighton University
School of Nursing**

Safety and Technical Standards for admission to, progression in, and completion of the Creighton University Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program.

Creighton University is committed to admitting qualified students without regard to race, color, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, sex, marital status or religion. The School of Nursing has identified specified essential abilities (technical standards) critical to the success of students enrolled in any Creighton University nursing program. These standards are designed to establish performance expectations that will enable students to provide safe patient practice, with or without reasonable accommodations. Qualified applicants and students are expected to meet all admission criteria, as well as these essential abilities (technical standards) with or without reasonable accommodations.

You are required to complete the Safety and Technical Standards form printed on the attached sheet. Applicants and students failing to respond to each of the questions will be unable to progress further in the admissions process.

Any evidence of a possible inability to meet the safety and technical standards may be cause for further evaluation at our discretion. Such evidence may become available through the application materials, letters of recommendation, interview, or visual observations. Further evaluation may entail an interview or a physical examination, or both, by a physician or practitioner (could be a psychologist, etc.) of our choice or both.

The purpose of the Creighton University DNP Program is to provide a learning environment where people, regardless of race, color, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, sex, marital status or religion, may prepare themselves for DNP roles. In preparation for these roles, nursing faculty expect the student to show a stable personality and demonstrate ability to meet the demands of the profession. To prepare persons to meet these expectations the School of Nursing offers a curriculum leading to the DNP degree. Applicants to and students in the program must be able to meet the cognitive, affective and psychomotor requirements of the curriculum.

A doctorally-prepared nurse is expected by the employer, consumers and other health care providers to assume specific role responsibilities in a safe and competent manner. Therefore, all skills taught and evaluated in the CU nursing program are requisites for successful completion of the program.

To matriculate (enroll) in the doctoral program in nursing, the students must meet technical standards for the nursing major, with or without reasonable accommodations and maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards for progression through the program. Conditionally admitted applicants to the major courses are evaluated by the School of Nursing Graduate/DNP Admissions and Progressions (A&P) Committee to determine their ability to acquire knowledge and develop clinical skills required by the curriculum, and to perform all the technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The technical standards that have been identified as necessary to meet nursing curriculum technical standards requirements include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

General Abilities

To provide quality nursing care the student is expected to possess functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and smell. All data received by the senses must be integrated, analyzed and synthesized in a consistent and accurate manner. The student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. In addition, the individual is expected to possess the ability to perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, equilibrium and movement.

Observational Ability

The student is expected to be able to observe the patient/client holistically to accurately assess any health/illness alterations. Inherent in this observation process is the functional use of the senses and sufficient motor capability to carry out the necessary assessment activities.

Communication

The student is expected to be able to effectively communicate and receive communication, both verbally and non-verbally. This requires the ability to see, speak, hear, read, write, and effectively utilize the English language. A candidate must be able to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Motor Ability

The student is expected to be able to perform gross and fine motor movements required to provide holistic nursing care. Examples of care that the student must be able to perform include turning, transferring, transporting, and exercising the patients/clients. The student is expected to have the psychomotor skills necessary to perform or assist with procedures, treatments, administration of medications, and emergency interventions. Examples of emergency interventions reasonably required of nurses are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of parenteral medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, and the suctioning of obstructed airways. A candidate must also be able to protect the patients in emergency situations such as in the event of a fire. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the sense of touch, hearing, smell and vision. The student is expected to be able to maintain consciousness and equilibrium, and have the physical strength and stamina to perform satisfactorily in clinical nursing experiences.

Intellectual - Conceptual Ability

The student is expected to have the ability to develop problem solving skills and demonstrate the ability to clinically manage patients and set priorities. This includes the ability to measure, calculate, analyze, and synthesize objective as well as subjective data and make decisions that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation of the appropriate data. The student is expected to be able to listen, speak, read, write, reason, and perform mathematical functions at a level which allows the student to process and understand the materials presented (in both a written and a verbal format) throughout his or her course of study.

Behavioral/Social Attributes

The student is expected to have the emotional stability to fully utilize his/her intellectual abilities, exercise sound judgment, complete assessment and intervention activities, and develop sensitive interpersonal relationships with patients/clients, families, and others responsible for health care. The student is expected to have the flexibility to function effectively under stress; that is, the individual is expected to be able to learn to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Concern for others, integrity, accountability, interest and motivation are necessary personal qualities.

**Safety and Technical Standards
Doctor of Nursing Practice Program
Creighton University School of Nursing**

Name: _____
Last First MI

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

1. If you had sufficient education would you be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodations, the customary techniques for physical assessment such as auscultation (listening with a stethoscope), percussion (tapping of the chest or abdomen to elicit a sound indicating the relative density of the body part), palpation (feeling various body parts such as the breast or abdomen with the ability to discern the size, shape and consistency of masses), and visual observation sufficient to note such changes as skin and eye color, and body positioning as well as to use such instruments as an otoscope (magnifying instrument for examining the ear) and ophthalmoscope (magnifying instrument eye examinations)?

Yes (with accommodations) _____ Yes (without accommodations) _____ No _____

Use this space for explanation should you so desire, or to request a reasonable accommodation which would permit you to perform the procedures described above:

2. If you had sufficient education would you be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodations, advanced nursing procedures as required by the practice locations or specialties in which you will receive your training.

Yes (with accommodations) _____ Yes (without accommodations) _____ No _____

Use this space for explanation should you so desire, or to request a reasonable accommodation which would permit you to perform the procedures described above:

3. If you had sufficient education would you be able to perform quickly and effectively, with or without reasonable accommodations, such emergency procedures as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and suctioning of obstructed airways?

Yes (with accommodations) _____ Yes (without accommodations) _____ No _____

Use this space for explanation should you so desire, or to request a reasonable accommodation which would permit you to perform the procedures described above:

4. Are you able to communicate orally and in writing and receive communication so as to conduct patient interviews, to provide patient education, and to make your assessments and plans known to others on the health care team?

Yes (with accommodations)_____ Yes (without accommodations)_____ No _____

Use this space for explanation should you so desire, or to request a reasonable accommodation which would permit you to perform the procedures described above:

5. Are you able to withstand the physical and psychological rigors of nursing education and practice? Both may entail long classroom and clinical hours, strenuous physical activity, exposure to latex and other allergens and taking care of patients with serious illnesses, contagious diseases, terminal diseases, and severe emotional disorders. Consistent class attendance is mandatory due to the clinical nature of the nursing program.

Yes (with accommodations)_____ Yes (without accommodations)_____ No _____

Use this space for explanation should you so desire, or to request a reasonable accommodation which would permit you to perform the procedures described above:

6. Can you meet the immunization requirements for Health Science students (see list below and go to the following website for more information: [http://www2.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/chc/docs/HS Immunization Requirements2008.doc](http://www2.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/chc/docs/HS_Immunization_Requirements2008.doc)).

MMR vaccine requirement: 2 MMR vaccines given after the 1st birthday and at least 30 days apart are required

Tuberculosis screening requirement: Initial TB screening – 2 separate PPD tests within one year (a.k.a., “two step”) or Provider Review if history of positive PPD. Then annual TB screening is required.

DPT/Td requirement: A series of 3 doses of DPT, DTaP, or Td -- one within past 10 years; one dose Tdap (Adacel or Boosterix) (date must be after vaccine release day of May 2006

Polio requirement: A series of 3 vaccines or positive Polio titer is required.

Hepatitis B vaccine requirement: A series of 3 vaccines and a positive blood titer is required.

Varicella/Chicken Pox Immunity requirement: If a student has a history of chicken pox disease, a positive blood titer is required. If a student has no history of chicken pox disease, a 2 dose series of vaccine is acceptable.

Yes_____ No_____ If no, why?

7. Are you able, with or without reasonable accommodations, to listen, speak, read, write, reason and perform mathematical functions at a level which allows you to process and understand materials which are presented to you (in either a verbal or a written format)?

Yes (with accommodations)_____ Yes (without accommodations)_____ No _____

Use this space for explanation should you so desire, or to request a reasonable accommodation which would permit you to perform all of the functions described above at a level which allows you to process and understand materials which are presented to you (in either a verbal or a written format):

8. Having read the Safety and Technical Standards for Creighton University School of Nursing, do you require reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to meet any of these requirements?

Yes _____ No _____

If “yes”, please indicate below the nature of the accommodation requests. These requests can include, but are not limited to, extended time for examinations, isolated testing environment, or note taker.

I certify that the information submitted in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submission of false or incorrect information may cause my application to be rejected or may cause dismissal from Creighton University, if admitted. I understand that any request for accommodation will be evaluated to determine the adequacy of the supporting documentation and the reasonableness of the requested accommodation.

Applicant's Signature

Date

If you have any questions regarding the above questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Linda Lazure, Associate Dean of Student Affairs at (402) 280-2001 or llazure@creighton.edu.