

Competencies and Functional Abilities

The Lex La-Ray Technical Center Practical Nursing Program acknowledges the abilities necessary to acquire and/or demonstrate competence in the nursing profession. Students seeking admission should be aware that all graduates are expected to develop these basic competencies throughout their education with or without reasonable accommodation. These competencies and functional abilities include, but may not be all-inclusive in the table below.

Core Competencies	Standard	Examples (not meant to be inclusive)
Critical Thinking and Analytical Thinking	Critical thinking ability that includes the ability to recognize cause/effect and analyze potential solutions.	Synthesize knowledge, recognize problems, problem-solve, prioritize, invoke long and short-term memory.
Communication	Convey information orally and in writing using English as the primary language.	Write nurses notes, engage in patient teaching, participate in patient conferences, and interpret nonverbal cues.
Psychomotor Skills	Perform tasks confluent with nursing roles.	Perform patient assessment, change dressings, give injections.
Interpersonal Skills	Demonstrate therapeutic communication and relationship skills.	Engage in conflict resolution, establish rapport, non-judgmental attitude.
Reading	Read and comprehend written materials.	Read and interpret policies and procedures, read progress notes.
Mathematical Ability	Demonstrate facility with arithmetic functions, measurement and recording devices, and reading/recording of numerical information.	Calculate drug dosages, convert to metric system, read monitoring equipment, record numerical assessment/monitoring data
Functional Ability	Standard	Examples (not meant to be inclusive)
Physical Stamina	Exhibit physical strength and endurance appropriate to professional nursing roles throughout assigned shifts.	Lift or move patients, support patients while walking, work complete shifts, conduct CPR.
Hearing	Hear, with or without aids, voices, sounds, and monitoring alarms necessary for safe practice.	Monitor blood pressures, hear patients speaking, respond to equipment alarms, auscultate lung sounds.
Sight	Distinguish color and visual images within normal range.	Determine color changes during physical assessment, observe patients in hallways, read computer/monitoring screens.
Olfactory Sensation	Detect odors, unusual smells, or smoke.	Assess odors during physical assessment, detect odor of smoke.
Tactile Sensation	Interpret sensations, temperature and environmental temperature.	Perform palpation for monitoring or procedures, respond to environmental temperature changes.
Physical Health Status	Maintain physical health consistent with employment responsibilities and commitments.	Monitor own health needs.
Mental Health Status	Maintain focus and emotional stability in stressful situations and respond to needs of others.	Manage own emotions, respond appropriately in crisis situations, adapt to change readily, maintain therapeutic boundaries.
Gross Motor Skills	Exhibit ability to move, sit, stand and walk safely.	Bend, stoop, or reach for objects, maintain balance.
Fine Motor Skills	Demonstrates ability to write, grasp, pick-up, or manipulate small objects.	Write legible, manipulate syringes, and calibrate equipment.
Mobility	Demonstrate physical abilities consistent with role.	Move quickly from place to place, move freely in patient care needs.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic interventions, starting IVs.
Health Stamina	Health status level which permits them to meet the classroom and clinical objectives with reasonable accommodations.	Stamina sufficient (i.e., diabetic allows for snacks) to participate in continuous clinical activities for length of time required by course (i.e., 12-hour shifts).