

Essential Qualifications for Undergraduate Students

The University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Nursing Associate of Science, Nursing Science (AAS) and Bachelor of Science, Nursing Science (BS) signify that the holder of the AAS or BS degree has been educated to competently practice nursing in all healthcare settings and to apply for or hold an RN licensure in the State of Alaska. The education of a nurse requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment through patient care experiences in preparation for independent, semi-autonomous practice where making appropriate decisions is required. The practice of nursing emphasizes collaboration among physicians, nurses, allied health care professionals, and the patient.

The curriculum leading to the AAS or BS 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 AAS or BS, 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 BS and AAS degrees at the University of Alaska School of Nursing, in addition to the standards of behavior and academic conduct set forth in the *UAA Student Code of Conduct*, Board of Regents' Policy and University Regulation include but are not limited to the following abilities:

Motor Skills

Candidates should have sufficient motor function so that 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, with reasonable accommodations as needed, to safely assist a patient in moving, for example, from a chair to a bed, or from a wheelchair to a commode.

Sensory/Observation

Candidates must be able to acquire the information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and nursing sciences. They 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. Candidates 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

Candidates must communicate effectively and professionally with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. They must express their ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. Candidates 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. Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms. Candidates must be able to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team. The appropriate communication may also rely on candidates' ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

Cognitive

Candidates must be able to adequately measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in the context of undergraduate nursing study. Candidates must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written material. They must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and clinical setting.

Behavioral/Emotional

Candidates must have the emotional ability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. Candidates must possess the emotional ability required for the full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. In addition, they 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. Candidates must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. Candidates must be able and willing to examine and change their behavior when it interferes with productive individual and/or team relationships. Candidate must possess skills and experience necessary for effective and professional 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. Candidates must not engage in [unprofessional conduct](#), and 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

The School of Nursing is committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified students with disabilities are given equal access through reasonable accommodations to its services, programs, activities, education and employment for students with disabilities. The School of Nursing works closely with UAA Disability Support Services (DSS) in this process. DSS is the contact point for students with permanent or temporary sensory, physical, or psychological disabilities interested in requesting reasonable accommodations due to the effects of a disability.

Students must follow the established policies for requesting and receiving reasonable accommodations. Students who wish to request reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact DSS to start the process for documenting their disability and determining eligibility for services prior to the start of the program. While this process can be started at any time, reasonable accommodations will not be implemented retroactively so being timely in requesting your accommodations is very important. The University does have policies regarding the type of documentation required in order to diagnose different disabilities and a process for requesting accommodations. For distance students, DSS can conduct many facets of the process by phone. To learn more about the process for establishing services through these offices please contact the DSS office:

[UAA Disability Support Services](#) (DSS)

3211 Providence Drive, Rasmuson Hall Room #112

Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone (907) 786-4530 (voice) or (907) 227-9609 (text only)

Fax (907) 786-4531

All students, including students with disabilities, are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program including meeting all program outcomes with reasonable accommodation. The School of Nursing will work with the student and DSS to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. It is important to note that the School of Nursing is not required to provide requested accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential functions or technical standards of the program.