

West Georgia Technical College School of Health Sciences Technical Standards and Essential Functions

Students enrolled in the West Georgia Technical College School of Health Sciences must possess the physical, cognitive, sensory, communication, behavioral, and technological abilities necessary to safely and effectively participate in classroom, laboratory, simulation, clinical, and other applied learning experiences. These technical standards identify the essential functions considered necessary for successful completion of Health Sciences curricula and for providing safe, competent, and ethical patient care and professional services. Students must be able to perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation. Consistent with the expectations of applicable institutional policies, clinical affiliates, professional licensing boards, and programmatic accrediting agencies, including but not limited to JRCERT, CODA, NAACLS, CAAHEP, ARC/STSA, CAHIM, ABFSE, and other recognized accrediting organizations, students are expected to demonstrate the following abilities throughout their enrollment.

I. Physical Requirements

- Stand, sit, walk, bend, stoop, kneel, reach, twist, climb, and maintain required positions for extended periods.
- Perform repetitive physical activities throughout laboratory and clinical experiences.
- Maintain sufficient endurance to complete classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical assignments.
- Safely function in environments that may require rapid physical response.

II. Observation and Sensory Abilities

- Observe patients, specimens, images, equipment, instruments, and demonstrations.
- Read printed materials, digital displays, monitors, gauges, and instrumentation.
- Distinguish colors, contrast, depth, movement, texture, size, and shape when required.
- Detect visual changes that may indicate abnormal findings or unsafe conditions.
- Hear and interpret verbal communication, equipment alarms, patient responses, and environmental sounds with or without assistive devices.
- Utilize touch appropriately to assess patients, specimens, equipment, and procedural outcomes.

III. Communication Abilities

- Communicate clearly, accurately, respectfully, and professionally using verbal, written, and electronic methods.
- Read, understand, interpret, and follow written and verbal instructions.
- Accurately document patient, laboratory, imaging, procedural, or technical information.
- Effectively communicate with patients, families, faculty, peers, clinical instructors, healthcare providers, and members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
- Demonstrate communication that reflects professionalism, compassion, empathy, cultural humility, and respect for individuals from diverse backgrounds.

IV. Cognitive Abilities

- Learn, retain, recall, and apply knowledge from classroom, laboratory, simulation, and clinical instruction.
- Demonstrate critical thinking, sound clinical judgment, analytical reasoning, and effective problem-solving.

- Interpret laboratory findings, diagnostic images, patient information, technical data, and other discipline-specific information.
- Perform mathematical calculations accurately, including measurements, dosages, ratios, calculations, and data interpretation appropriate to the profession.
- Organize, prioritize, and manage multiple responsibilities simultaneously.
- Recognize changes in patient condition or technical findings requiring intervention.
- Respond appropriately to emergency situations within the student's level of education and responsibility.

V. Motor Skills

- Demonstrate fine motor coordination and gross motor function.
- Possess manual dexterity sufficient to manipulate instruments, equipment, controls, and supplies.
- Perform procedures requiring precision, coordination, steadiness, and control.
- Position patients safely and operate discipline-specific equipment.
- Demonstrate tactile abilities necessary to perform assessments and procedures.
- React promptly and appropriately in situations requiring immediate physical response.

VI. Infection Prevention and Safety

- Consistently utilize Standard Precautions.
- Apply infection prevention and control practices.
- Safely utilize appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Safely handle blood, body fluids, specimens, hazardous chemicals, sharps, biological materials, and biomedical waste.
- Follow laboratory, clinical, radiation, chemical, and environmental safety procedures.
- Comply with emergency preparedness and institutional safety protocols.

VII. Technological Competence

- Use computers and educational technologies required for coursework.
- Utilize electronic health records, laboratory information systems, imaging systems, or other electronic documentation platforms appropriate to the discipline.
- Safely operate program-specific equipment following instructions and established procedures.
- Demonstrate the ability to learn and adapt to evolving healthcare technologies.

VIII. Emotional and Behavioral Expectations

- Demonstrate professionalism, honesty, integrity, accountability, and ethical conduct.
- Maintain emotional stability while working in stressful, rapidly changing, or emotionally challenging environments.
- Exercise sound professional judgment.
- Recognize personal limitations and seek assistance when appropriate.
- Accept constructive feedback and demonstrate continuous improvement.
- Maintain patient confidentiality and comply with HIPAA, FERPA, and all applicable privacy regulations.
- Demonstrate respect, compassion, empathy, and cultural responsiveness.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Work cooperatively with faculty, staff, classmates, patients, and members of the healthcare team.
- Meet attendance, punctuality, and participation expectations.
- Comply with all College, program, laboratory, simulation, clinical, and clinical affiliate policies.

IX. Environmental Requirements

- Blood and body fluids
- Infectious diseases
- Hazardous chemicals
- Cleaning and disinfecting agents
- Latex or latex-free products
- Radiation (where applicable)
- Medical gases
- Strong odors
- Noise
- Temperature variations
- Deceased human remains (where applicable)
- Extended use of personal protective equipment