Necessary Capacities and Abilities for Applicants and Accepted Students in the UCSF Masters’ Entry in Nursing Program

Revised February 2011

Successful completion of the first year of the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing at UCSF signifies that the student has been educated to competently practice nursing in accordance with the California Nurse Practice Act. The education of a nurse requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment through patient care experiences in preparation for professional practice. In addition to the standards of behavior and academic conduct set forth in the UCSF School of Nursing Student Handbook, functions necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty and other healthcare providers include, but are not limited to, the following:

Motor Skills

Applicants should have sufficient motor function to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings. Necessary physical abilities include the ability to move from patient to patient, from room to room, work in a standing position and maneuver in small spaces. [For example: for the safety and protection of the patients, the MEPN student must be able to perform basic life support, including CPR, and function in an emergency situation.] The MEPN student must have the ability and upper body strength, within reasonable limits, to safely assist a patient in moving and transferring; for example, transfer from a chair to a bed, or from a wheelchair to a commode. The MEPN student will need to perform skills such as programming equipment, preparing and administering medications and performing necessary patient procedures; such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements as well as balance.

Sensory / Observation

Applicants to the MEPN program must be able to acquire the information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and nursing sciences. The MEPN student must have functional use of the senses of touch and vision, be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close proximity, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing nursing assessment and interventions, or when administering medications. The MEPN student must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. Such information is derived from the ability to process visual images of the body surfaces, perceive tactile information noted by palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and receiving auditory information sufficient to detect patient voice, heart tones, bowel and lung sounds. The applicant must also be able to project voice to seek assistance in an emergency.
Communication

Applicants to the MEPN program at UCSF must communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals, both verbally and in writing. MEPN students must express ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. MEPN students must be able to: convey or exchange information at a level that allows development of a health history; identify problems; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment.

MEPN students must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written forms. A MEPN student must be able to process and communicate information on a patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team. The appropriate communication may also rely on the MEPN student's ability to make a correct judgment in seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

Cognitive

Successful applicants and students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in the context of undergraduate and graduate nursing study. MEPN students must be able to read quickly and comprehend extensive written material. MEPN students must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking and clinical reasoning in both the classroom and clinical setting.

Behavioral/Emotional

A MEPN student must possess the emotional health required for the full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. In addition, a MEPN student 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.

Prospective and continuing students must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. Applicants and students must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy. Prospective students must understand how their personal values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect perceptions and relationships with others. MEPN students must be able and willing to examine and change behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships. Skills and experiences necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and working environments are essential to success in the MEPN year.
Endurance

Applicants to MEPN must possess physical and mental endurance for 12-13 hours of intermittent walking, standing, sitting and other movement per day, up to 7 days a week, for 12 months. Applicants should anticipate spending 30-36 hours per week engaged in planned learning and clinical activities. This does NOT include preparation or study time.

Transportation

MEPN students likely will be required to travel to clinical sites for clinical courses during the MEPN year and must have access to a reliable vehicle for transportation. While many clinical sites are in San Francisco and may be within walking distance and near public transportation, it is likely that the student will also be required to travel to clinical sites that are not accessible by public transportation. Students will need to have access to a vehicle in order to reach many clinical facilities utilized throughout the MEPN year.

Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities

The School of Nursing is committed to ensuring that qualified students with disabilities are given equal access through reasonable accommodations to its services, programs, activities, education and employment for students with disabilities. In this process, the School of Nursing works closely with the Learning Resources and Student Disability Services, which 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. While attempting to provide academic accommodation or adjustment, the academic integrity of the MEPN program will be maintained. The first 12 months of the MEPN program is a concentrated, accelerated, and intensive program of study, leading to licensure as a Registered Nurse.

Successful applicants who wish to request reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact Learning Resources and Student Disability Services 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 may not be implemented retroactively, so being timely in requesting 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. To learn more about the process for establishing services through these offices please contact the Director of Learning Resources and Student Disability Services.

Students with disabilities are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program. The School of Nursing will work with the student and the Learning
Resources and Student Disability Services to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations. While the UCSF School of Nursing will make every effort to work with our students with disabilities to accommodate their disability-related needs, it is important to note we are NOT able to provide accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential functions, accelerated nature, or technical standards of the program.