



## EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROCEDURE

For information, contact Institutional  
Effectiveness: (915) 831-6740

### **FB-8                    Physical and Technical Standards for Students in Health Career Programs**

**APPROVED:** April 16, 1991                    **REVISED:** June 8, 2012  
Year of last review: 2021  
**AUTHORIZING BOARD POLICY:** FB

Classification: Administrative

Vice President or Associate Vice President: Vice President of Instruction and Workforce Education

Designated contact: Dean or Director of the Program

**OBJECTIVE:**        To establish guidelines for determining physical/technical ability/eligibility for enrollment in the health career programs.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

##### **I.            Documentation of Medical History and Physical Examination**

- A.        Students entering health career programs will be required to submit evidence of a medical history and current physical examination. Initial review of these documents will be completed by the appropriate program coordinator. The program coordinator will refer any questionable documents or physical recommendations to the Dean, Health Careers, Dean of Nursing, or Director, CE Health.
- B.        Prior to entering the first clinical course, students will sign a statement relating to their ability to perform the competencies as stated in section II of this procedure. (See attached form). Students who declare any limitations on this form will be required to follow the process in section III of this procedure.
- C.        With a reported change in the physical or mental status of a student, the student may be required to obtain a recommendation for program continuation from a physician.

##### **II.          Assumptions**

An applicant or a student enrolled in health career programs in El Paso County Community College District will be able to perform the following competencies:

- A.        Functionally use the sense of vision, hearing, smell, and touch with or without technical (mechanical) compensation.

###### **Rationale:**

The student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand to determine patient status. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

- B.        Execute functional psychomotor movements to provide general patient care and emergency treatments.

###### **Rationale:**

Provision of patient care and administration of emergency treatments require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Laboratory situations would not adequately compensate, because the educational experience involves real patient care situations, and the potential for emergency interventions.

- C.        Hear, observe, and speak to patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.

**\*Note: The word "faculty" denotes instructors, counselors and librarians.**

Rationale:

The student must be able to communicate with patients, staff, and others effectively and with sensitivity. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

- D. Utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, complete tasks, and comprehend spatial relationships. Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the proportional relationships of structures.

Rationale:

The student must respond to newly emerging variables with varying levels of supervision. Poor judgment places patient and other staff at needless risk. Understanding of spatial relationships is necessary for accurate measurements and participation in various procedures.

- E. Demonstrate the intellectual and emotional capabilities required to exercise good judgment.

Rationale:

The student must be able to promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with them.

- F. Tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress.

Rationale:

The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are essential for success in professional practice.

- G. Lift and safely move up to 50 pounds while utilizing safe body mechanics.

Rationale:

1. Moving patients and equipment from one location to another location (to the floor, to a bed, between chairs), without the assistance of a second person, or the patients themselves, is a daily activity that occurs many times within the workday.
2. Movement of more than 50 pounds usually requires another person or use of assistive devices.

III. Exceptions

- A. An applicant or current enrollee with verifiable mental or physical disabilities, who may be unable to meet these program requirements, may request individual consideration for admission or retention.
- B. A petition for special consideration must be initiated by the student through either the Center for Students with Disabilities or the Dean, Health Careers, Dean of Nursing, or Director, CE Health. The petition must include:
1. The program for which the student is applying or is enrolled.
  2. An explanation of physical or mental limitations.
  3. A statement of adaptations to be made by the student.
  4. Any adaptations requested to be made by the District.
- C. A joint recommendation will be made by the Director of the Center for Students with Disabilities and by the Dean of Health Careers, Dean of Nursing, or Director, CE Health.
- D. A written accommodation plan will be developed by the Center for Students with Disabilities as appropriate for each course in which the student is enrolled that requires accommodation. Copies of this documentation will be maintained in both the program files and the Center for Students with Disabilities files. If the student should request accommodation for licensure or certification examinations, copies of the accommodations plans approved during the program of study may be requested by the licensing or certifying agency.
- E. Appeals may be made in writing to the Vice President of Student and Enrollment Services and the Vice President of Instruction and Workforce Education, who will jointly review the grievance.



**EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STUDENT DECLARATION  
PHYSICAL/TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES FOR  
HEALTH CAREER PROGRAMS**

An applicant or a student enrolled in health career programs in the El Paso County Community College District will be able to perform the following competencies:

**Functionally use the sense of vision, hearing, smell, and touch with or without technical (mechanical) compensation.**

Rationale:

The student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand to determine patient status. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

**Execute functional psychomotor movements to provide general patient care and emergency treatments.**

Rationale:

Provision of patient care and administration of emergency treatments require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Laboratory situations would not adequately compensate, because the educational experience involves real patient care situations, and the potential for emergency interventions.

**Hear, observe, and speak to patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.**

Rationale:

The student must be able to communicate with patients, staff, and others effectively and with sensitivity. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

**Utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, complete tasks, and comprehend spatial relationships. Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the proportional relationships of structures.**

Rationale:

The student must respond to newly emerging variables with varying levels of supervision. Poor judgment places patient and other staff at needless risk. Understanding of spatial relationships is necessary for accurate measurements and participation in various procedures.

**Demonstrate the intellectual and emotional capabilities required to exercise good judgment.**

Rationale:

The student must be able to promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with them.

**Tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress.**

Rationale:

The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are essential for success in professional practice.

**Lift and safely move 50 pounds while utilizing safe body mechanics**

Rationale:

Moving patients and equipment from one location to another location (to the floor, to a bed, between chairs), without the assistance of a second person, or the patients themselves, is a daily activity that occurs many times within the workday. Movement of more than 50 pounds usually requires another person or use of assistive devices.

Student Declaration:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to meet all of the above, stated physical/technical competencies without any special accommodations.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am able to meet all of the above, stated physical/technical competencies without special accommodations, EXCEPT the following: Describe limitation and accommodations needed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR/COORDINATOR.

---

TO BE COMPLETED BY COLLEGE STAFF

Actions Recommended:

- \_\_\_\_\_ No action required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accommodation Plan Needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_ Coordinator's Signature

FORWARD TO DEAN/DIRECTOR FOR REVIEW.

---

Actions Recommended:

- \_\_\_\_\_ No action required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accommodation Plan Needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Comments:

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Dean's/Director's Signature

FORWARD TO CENTER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IF NECESSARY.  
COPY TO STUDENT FILE.

---

Actions Recommended:

- \_\_\_\_\_ No action required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accommodation Plan Completed (copy attached)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Comments:

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Director of Center for Students with Disabilities

PLEASE RETURN COPY TO DEAN/DIRECTOR AND COORDINATOR LISTED ABOVE.