



Technical Standards for Allied Health Professions

Applicable to Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy, EKG, and Other Allied Health Certificate Programs at Lakeland Community College

Students enrolled in Allied Health programs must be able to perform a variety of cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor functions to successfully complete academic and clinical requirements. These technical standards outline essential abilities required to ensure patient safety and deliver quality care. While not all-inclusive, the examples below represent typical demands placed on allied health professionals. Students may encounter medical emergencies and must respond promptly and effectively to prevent harm or irreversible patient injury.

Critical Thinking

Students must demonstrate sufficient critical thinking and problem-solving skills to make sound clinical judgments.

Example: Apply knowledge from coursework and clinical training to assess and respond to patient needs, including recognizing urgent conditions and performing accurate calculations.

Interpersonal Skills

Students must interact respectfully and effectively with patients, families, healthcare providers, and peers from diverse backgrounds.

Example: Establish rapport and communicate with individuals who may be experiencing physical or emotional stress.

Communication Skills

Students must possess effective verbal, non-verbal, and written communication skills. This includes clear speech, active listening, reading comprehension, professional writing, and computer literacy.

Example: Document patient care accurately, explain procedures, follow instructions, and use electronic health records.

Mobility

Students must have the physical ability to move freely within clinical environments.

Example: Navigate patient rooms, laboratories, and treatment areas; perform CPR; and assist with patient transfers.

Motor Skills

Students must demonstrate sufficient fine and gross motor coordination to safely and effectively use clinical tools and perform procedures.

Example: Handle medical instruments, perform venipuncture, connect ECG leads, and operate laboratory equipment.

Hearing

Students must have adequate auditory ability to assess and monitor patient conditions.

Example: Hear alarms, emergency signals, patient cues, and auscultated sounds such as blood pressure or heart rate.

Vision

Students must possess adequate visual acuity for patient care, assessment, and documentation.

Example: Observe skin color changes, read monitors and charts, and visually inspect equipment and procedural outcomes.

Tactile Ability

Students must have tactile sensitivity sufficient to perform assessments and procedures.

Example: Palpate pulses, locate veins for venipuncture, and detect changes in temperature or texture.

Emotional Stability and Mental Alertness

Students must remain calm, focused, and professional in high-stress environments.

Example: Respond appropriately to emergencies, take direction under pressure, and maintain a positive patient-care approach.

Weight-Bearing Ability

Students must be able to lift and carry loads up to 30 pounds.

Example: Assist patients with mobility or positioning and transport equipment or supplies.

Cognitive Abilities

Students must demonstrate the ability to prioritize tasks, process information efficiently, and make appropriate decisions.

Example: Accurately evaluate patient symptoms, manage time effectively, and perform calculations related to medication or lab values.

Occupational Risks Policy

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Students enrolled in Allied Health programs perform clinical and administrative functions in a variety of healthcare settings. These professions are rewarding and in high demand; however, they also involve specific occupational risks. It is important for students to understand these risks and practice appropriate safety measures to protect themselves, their peers, and patients.

Examples of Potential Occupational Risks

Students may encounter the following hazards while participating in program activities:

- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Sharps injuries
- Bloodborne pathogens and other biological hazards
- Chemical and drug exposure
- Ergonomic hazards from lifting, sitting, and repetitive tasks
- Latex allergies
- Stress associated with patient care responsibilities

Safety and Protective Measures

Lakeland Community College is committed to providing a safe learning environment. Allied Health students are expected to:

- Follow standard and transmission-based precautions at all times.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Adhere to established safety protocols in classroom, lab, and clinical settings.

Health Concerns and Return to Program Activities

If a student experiences a health problem or injury that results in multiple absences or affects their ability to meet performance standards, they must provide documentation from a licensed healthcare provider stating they are medically cleared to safely resume program activities. This documentation will be reviewed to determine the student's readiness to return to classroom, lab, and/or clinical participation.

Program Responsibility

Accredited Allied Health programs are required to educate students about occupational hazards and the OSHA standards designed to protect healthcare workers and patients. Lakeland incorporates these requirements into its curriculum to ensure that graduates are prepared to work safely and effectively in healthcare environments.