

## Program Technical Standards

(adapted from the Special Advisory Panel on Technical Standards for Medical School Admissions convened by the AAMC (Memorandum #79-4) in January 1979.)

A candidate to the UofL SON DNP-NA specialty must have abilities and skills in five areas: observation; communication; motor; intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative; and behavioral and social.

1. **Observation:** Nurse Anesthetist Resident candidates must be able to obtain information rapidly, in classroom, clinical, and laboratory areas. The ability to perform a complete physical examination, integrate this information into an anesthesia preoperative assessment, and develop an appropriate anesthetic plan is a critical function of the NAR. NAR visual acuity and color vision are required to distinguish color, general appearance, and shape ultimately determining non-impaired versus impaired patient function and conditions. Therefore, the senses of vision, hearing, smell, and touch, or the functional equivalent are required.
2. **Communication:** NAR candidates must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently, empathetically, and sensitively with patients, their families, health care personnel, colleagues, faculty, staff, and all other individuals with whom they come in contact. Candidates must have sufficient mastery of the English language to retrieve information from multiple modalities, including but not limited to verbal speech, written text, email, and SMS messaging (texts). Candidates must also be receptive to non-verbal aspects of communication. Non-verbal communication includes mood, activity, posture, and behavior. The ability to maintain communication with other health care professionals and patients in normal and critical situations is essential.
3. **Motor function:** NAR candidates must coordinate fine and gross motor movements. The ability to interpret written and verbal instruction and adapt their movements in the laboratory and clinical environment is critical. Examples of fine motor movement tasks include performing physical examinations (e.g., palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers), airway instrumentation, and suturing. Gross motor movement tasks include prolonged walking, ascending stairs, assisted movement of patients, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Candidates must be able to move at least 50 lbs. vertically and horizontally. The coordinated motor function must be timely, efficient, and effective for general and emergency care, including adherence to universal precautions.
4. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** NAR candidates must be able to rapidly, consistently, and accurately analyze, calculate, measure, problem solve, reason, synthesize/interpret and transmit information for therapeutic judgments for patients. Candidates use these abilities to formulate and test hypotheses to effectively diagnose and treat patients. Learning may utilize varied modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team, and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; simulations, and use of

computer technology. They must comprehend three-dimensional spatial relationships and adapt physical movements accordingly.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes: NAR candidates must demonstrate the maturity and emotional health to tolerate emotionally and physically-taxing workloads while functioning effectively under stress. This ability cumulates in utilizing good judgment and utilization of intellectual abilities to attend to their curriculum and to the diagnosis and care of patients. Continuous display of compassion, conscientiousness, empathy, integrity, honesty, a sense of altruism, and a spirit of cooperation and teamwork are critical. They must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of Nurse Anesthesia and must function within both the law and ethical standards of the profession. Candidates must be able to interact with patients and their families, health care personnel, colleagues, faculty, staff, and all other individuals with whom they come in contact in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. Candidates must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; agreeing to participate in touching/palpating on the skin and being touched /palpated on the skin by individuals regardless of gender in academic settings. Candidates must demonstrate the maturity to accept constructive feedback and criticism and respond with appropriate behavior modification.