

College of Nursing, Rehabilitation and Human Health

Career Readiness Skills

Nursing

Employers look for the skills listed below when hiring new graduates. Use the descriptions as a reference to select which skills you feel you have developed. Meet with your academic advisor and faculty mentor to discuss which classes to take and other opportunities to strengthen areas where you are missing or need more experience.

Adaptability:

Develop the ability to adjust one's behavior, mindset, and approach in response to changing circumstances while maintaining productivity and effectiveness.

- Adjust care plans and priorities when patient conditions or unit needs change.
- Learn new equipment, charting systems, and clinical procedures.
- Stay calm and productive in high-acuity or rapidly changing environments.

Career & Self-Development:

Advance your career through continuous learning, self-awareness, exploring opportunities, and networking.

- Explore nursing careers in acute care, community health, long-term care, and specialty areas.
- Identify strengths in communication, critical thinking, compassion, and teamwork.
- Use clinical rotations and mentoring to test interests.

Communication:

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with people inside and outside an organization.

- Communicate clearly with patients, families, nurses, providers, and teams.
- Listen actively and respond appropriately to questions and emotional cues.
- Adapt communication for different ages, cultures, and health literacy levels.

Critical Thinking:

Identify and respond to needs based on an understanding of situational context and a logical analysis of relevant information.

- Analyze patient assessments, lab values, and data before acting.
- Evaluate evidence and protocols when making care decisions.
- Consider safety, risk, and patient factors when prioritizing interventions.

Leadership:

Recognize and use personal and team strengths to achieve shared goals and support positive outcomes.

- Take initiative to improve patient care, safety, or team processes.
- Support peers by modeling professionalism and calm decision-making.
- Help organize tasks and responsibilities in clinical and group settings.

Professionalism:

Exhibit strong work habits, adapt to different organizational environments, and act in the best interest of the workplace and community.

- Arrive prepared, meet deadlines, and follow through on responsibilities.
- Demonstrate integrity, respect, confidentiality, and ethical behavior.
- Adapt to different units, schedules, policies, and expectations.

Teamwork:

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.

- Collaborate effectively with nurses, providers, therapists, and teams.
- Take responsibility for assigned tasks and shared patient care goals.
- Respect diverse perspectives and address conflict constructively.

Technology:

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

- Use electronic health records, monitors, and clinical devices effectively.
- Evaluate digital information for accuracy, relevance, and reliability.
- Use technology responsibly and ethically, especially around privacy and regulations.