Standards for Admission and Retention

To enter the nursing program, a student must first be admitted to the college. Admission to the college, however, does not guarantee admission into the nursing program, a separate letter from the School of Nursing and Health Sciences will be sent to the student upon acceptance into the program. A candidate for the Associate Degree in Nursing must possess assessment, communication, psychomotor, and behavioral skills. Reasonable accommodations may be made for some disabilities. However, each candidate is expected to perform in a safe and reasonably independent manner as demonstrated by:

1. **Assessment** – A candidate must be able to assess a client accurately. Examples of assessment includes:
   - Listening to heart and breath sounds
   - Visualizing the appearance of a surgical wound
   - Detecting the presence of a foul odor
   - Palpating an abdomen

2. **Communication** – A candidate must be able to interact therapeutically with clients and to communicate effectively with other members of the health care team. Examples of effective communication include:
   - Writing clearly and neatly in charts and other sources of documentation
   - Reading and interpreting physician orders
   - Hearing/seeing a nurse call bell and emergency alarms
   - Hearing the telephone and accepting phone orders correctly
   - Hearing a client calling for help
   - Reading fine or small print on medication containers
   - Perceiving non-verbal communication
   - Visually assessing and describing client situations

3. **Psychomotor** – A candidate must have adequate psychomotor function to work effectively with nursing problems and issues and carry out related nursing care. Examples of nursing care and psychomotor function include:
   - Assisting clients with daily hygiene care
   - Moving, ambulating and positioning clients
   - Performing invasive procedure such as venipuncture and urinary catheterization
   - Administering intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and oral medications
   - Applying pressure to stop bleeding
   - Lifting heavy objects at least three times each day
   - Standing for long periods of time and working at a fast pace
   - Demonstrating manual dexterity
   - Demonstrating the use of various equipment and instruments in the care of clients
   - Working alternating shifts of 8 – 12 hours on days, evenings, or nights
4. Behavioral – A candidate must have the emotional health required to maximize his/her intellectual abilities. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically demanding workloads and to function effectively during stressful situations. All candidates must be able to adapt to ever-changing environments, which require flexibility, interaction skills, and ability to function in the case of uncertainty that is inherent in the nursing profession. Other examples include:

- Acting ethically
- Exercising sound clinical judgment
- Being compassionate and displaying empathy
- Separating own needs and experiences to be able to provide objective non-judgmental client care
- Responding appropriately to stressful situations and in emergency situations (physically, emotionally, and mentally)