



ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (TECHNICAL SKILLS) LIST

The purpose of an Essential Functions List is to allow students who are considering a career to be informed of the physical, emotional and psychological demands related to training and employment in a field of study. These lists are provided to allow prospective students to make informed career choices by providing them with a summary of the physical abilities and personality traits that are generally required for the successful completion of a curriculum and result in employment in their field of study after graduation.

Veterinary Nursing is a career with many different paths. However, an accredited training program has the responsibility to ensure every student is technically competent in the procedures and tasks that are essential to the functioning of a technician in a clinical setting. The veterinary Nursing faculty members have developed the following list of essential functions/technical skills that students should be able to perform, with or without reasonable accommodation. This list also applies to Veterinary Nursing Distance Learning Students.

1. Students must possess sufficient strength, coordination, mobility, and manual dexterity to perform the following procedures accurately, safely and efficiently:
 - a. Be physically capable of handling equipment and animals up to 50 pounds of weight.
 - b. Move, reach, manipulate and operate equipment and controls.
 - c. The ability to tolerate walking, standing, sitting, crawling and bending for sustained and prolonged periods of time (85% of workday).
 - d. Access supply and storage areas.
 - e. Enter, maneuver in, and quickly exit cages, stalls, and other animal handling areas (may involve stooping, kneeling, crawling and/or climbing).
 - f. Move between animal holding facilities, treatment areas and surgical suites without physical impairment.
 - g. Reach, push or pull animals or equipment in confined areas.
2. Students must be able to demonstrate the following abilities:
 - a. Normal natural or corrected visual and auditory acuity to allow for patient assessment at a distance.
 - b. Tolerance of high-volume areas (examples: dog kennels, swine facilities).
 - c. Recognition of signals, alarms, emergency signals, and voices while in animal care or treatment facilities and while wearing personnel protective equipment.
 - d. Recognition of the presence of fire, gas, or toxic reagents for maintaining clinic and patient safety.
3. Students must possess the following skills:
 - a. A personality suited to exhibit respect, concern and compassion for both animals and humans.
 - b. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills to assess patient status and response to therapy.
 - c. The ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously.



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- d. Reading and writing skills that enable them to assess medical records and treatment plans, make legally-binding notes on patient status and care, and accurately complete log books.
- e. Computer skills that enable them to input, access, and assess client and patient information as well as perform hospital management tasks.
- f. Strong and positive interpersonal skills with the ability to interact appropriately with individuals from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.
- g. Personal initiative to work independently and with small groups of people.
- h. Stress management skills to handle stressful situations related to pain, injury, death and dying.
- i. Initiative and self-motivation to continue life-long learning.

Minimum Technology Requirements and Skills:

- Students must have access to a computer, reliable internet connection, and a camera separate from the computer monitor for online distance learning courses.
- Students must complete mandatory Blackboard training prior to taking online courses to ensure there are skills present to be successful in an online learning setting.
- Please ensure the technology you have is compatible with Blackboard Learn and Murray State College's lockdown browsers.