

Informed Choices

Further information for students considering a nursing course at Swinburne

Diploma of Nursing



Swinburne supports students to make informed choices when applying for and enrolling in courses. In the nursing discipline, there are functional and behavioural abilities required to undertake tasks, learning activities or assessments. These functions are described below to assist prospective students when assessing whether they can successfully undertake the course.

Reasonable Adjustments

Swinburne upholds inclusive academic practices, ensuring that students with disabilities and other conditions can undertake courses and participate in study. Reasonable adjustments can be implemented to support students through viable arrangements to enable students with a disability or a chronic health condition to undertake the studies without undermining core course requirements. Students considering whether they may be eligible for reasonable adjustments should contact Swinburne's [AccessAbility Services](#) and will need to complete an [AccessAbility Registration Form](#).

1. Sensory Abilities

Some tasks in nursing courses require certain sensory abilities, including: visual ability, tactile ability and auditory ability.

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact AccessAbility to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Sensory abilities	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to nursing courses?</i>
Visual ability	The extent to which a person can see or interpret visual information. This may also include colour vision.	Learning and assessment activities requires the ability to observe the patient / client physical appearance and movement.
Tactile ability	The sense of touch, and the extent to which a person can distinguish tactile differences and detect tactile changes.	Learning and assessment activities involve therapeutic touch, gathering and interpreting information from the ability to touch the patient / client.
Auditory ability	The sense of hearing, and the extent to which a person can be responsive to aural cues, and differentiate vocal sounds and tone.	Learning and assessment activities require safe performance when receiving and managing patient / client care and the ability to monitor and respond to nursing requirements.

2. Strength and Mobility

Some tasks in nursing courses require strength and mobility, including: gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact *AccessAbility* to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Strength and mobility	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to nursing courses?</i>
Gross motor skills	The use of large muscle groups that coordinate body movements and provide strength for activities such as lifting, pushing, pulling, walking and maintaining balance.	Learning and assessment activities require the ability to manoeuvre patients / clients or equipment in managing nursing care. This practice needs gross motor skills to complete safely.
Fine motor skills	The ability to undertake precise coordinated movements of the hands for activities such as writing and manipulating small objects.	Learning and assessment activities require manipulation and use of technology and equipment to collect data and implement appropriate treatment. This requires sufficient fine motor skills.

3. Behaviours

Some tasks in nursing courses require certain behaviours, including: ethical behaviour, mental wellness and behavioural stability, as well as sustainable performance and endurance.

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact *AccessAbility* to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Behaviours	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to nursing courses?</i>
Ethical behaviour	Ability to comply with and be governed by quality and professional standards. Acting in ways consistent with the recognised values of society and avoiding activities that do harm.	Learning and assessment activities require confidentiality and integrity in order to perform in academic and professional settings. Practice and registration requires adherence to the Professional Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Professional Standards of Nursing Practice.
Mental Wellness and Behavioural Stability	A state of well-being in which an individual can cope with the normal stresses of life and can work productively and fruitfully, maintaining consistent behaviour that is acceptable and appropriate.	Exposure to situations which are challenging and unpredictable is common in nursing practice. Learning and assessment activities require sensitive, perceptive and delicate interactions and responses. Learning and assessment activities require behavioural stability to manage challenges objectively and professionally.
Sustainable Performance and Endurance	The ability to undertake a task over a pre-determined period of time, including physical performance such as standing for a period of time, or mental performance such as concentrating and maintaining focus for a particular length of time.	Nursing practice while on placement requires exposure to unexpected and emergency situations. There is a requirement for a sustained level of physical and mental performance in learning and assessment activities.