



Social and Human Services Technical Standards

Technical Standards are nonacademic abilities and characteristics established to meet the essential functions of the selected program of study. This resource is provided to all potential applicants to facilitate the making of an informed decision about a program of study and future career. To better understand the nonacademic expectations of this program of study, the specific technical standards are provided below.

The Social and Human Services program is committed to preparing ethically grounded, professionally responsible graduates; as such, students must demonstrate the capacity to engage fully with all aspects of the curriculum and practice in ways that prioritize client well-being, professional boundaries, and safe, effective service delivery.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential instructional and training elements, cause undue hardship, or compromise safety in the classroom, lab, clinical, and/or field environment.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving Skills	Ability to gather, interpret, analyze, and synthesize information to support sound professional judgment and ethical decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify patterns, needs, and risks in client situations. ● Recognize scope of practice and seek supervision when appropriate.
Interpersonal Skills	Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with diverse individuals, families, and professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respect the dignity and rights of all individuals during all interactions, demonstrating respect for diverse backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences. ● Establish rapport with clients, peers, and colleagues. ● Maintain appropriate professional boundaries. ● Work effectively as part of a team.
Communication Skills	Ability to effectively communicate using English verbal, non-verbal, and written formats with faculty, students, clients, and community partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate appropriately with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC and with other professionals, and field supervisors. ● Engage in active listening and appropriate verbal

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		<p>responses, adapting communication style to meet the needs of diverse populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Observe and respond to verbal and nonverbal communication. ● Document and interpret actions and client responses as well as treatment procedures in a clear, professional, and timely manner.
Mobility / Physical Strength and Stamina	Physical abilities are sufficient to move in one's environment; sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage in classroom, virtual, and field experiences. ● Navigate typical classroom and community-based environments. ● Participate in activities that may involve sitting, standing, or moving between locations.
Motor Skills	Sufficient motor function to participate in academic, technological, and field-based activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage in tasks such as note-taking, documentation, and communication using standard computer

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
		equipment and learning technologies.
Sensory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sight ● Sound ● Touch ● Smell 	Sufficient sensory abilities to participate in program activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage in classroom, virtual, and field experiences. ● Observe and respond to verbal and nonverbal communication.
Behavioral / Emotional Skills	Present self in a professional manner in clinical and academic settings, demonstrating integrity, accountability, and reliability when engaging with sensitive, complex, or potentially distressing topics and situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abide by the NOHS Code of Ethics, maintaining confidentiality and respecting client privacy. ● Be present and professional while engaging with course content that may include trauma, abuse, suicide, substance use, and crisis. ● Maintain clear appropriate boundaries between personal experiences and professional responsibilities, avoiding shifting focus from client needs to personal experiences. ● Recognize when personal experiences may impact professional effectiveness

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		<p>and seek supervision appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use appropriate supports (e.g., supervision, counseling, self-care) outside of instructional time when needed.
<p>Environmental / Occupational Exposure</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work in environments that may be busy, unpredictable, or emotionally intense. ● Interact with individuals experiencing stress, crisis, or instability.

Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.

Accessibility & Accommodations:

It is SCC's goal to create a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive. **If a student has a question as to their ability to meet the minimal technical standards listed above, they should contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator to determine if the standard can be met with accommodations.** To learn more about resources available to you, schedule a consultation or appointment, and/or establish accommodations that may be needed based on impact of a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4326 (Balsam Center, Room 129A).

Signature of Understanding:

I have received a personal copy of the program specific technical standards. I was provided the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. I understand that these are enforceable, nonacademic standards required for the program of study and I certify that I have the ability to meet the technical standards of the program of study.

Student name (printed)

Student Signature

Date