

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing
 Samford University
 NURS 241
 Vital Signs Validation

The student will be given 3 attempts to successfully validate vital signs. Successful validation is required to receive a passing grade in the course.

Student Name: _____

Validation #: _____

Assessing Body Temperature

Procedure Steps	Yes	No	Comments
1. Selects appropriate site and thermometer type.			
2. Inserts thermometer in sheath.			
3. Oral: Places thermometer tip under the tongue in the posterior sublingual pocket (right or left of frenulum). Asks patient to keep lips closed.			
4. Leaves electronic thermometer until it beeps.			
5. Read temperature.			

Recommendation: Pass _____ Needs more practice/re-validation: _____

Assessing Radial Pulse

Procedure Steps	Yes	No	Comments
1. Correctly locates and palpates radial pulse.			
2. Uses fingers (not thumb) to palpate.			
3. Counts for 30 sec. if regular; 60 seconds if irregular.			
4. Notes rate, rhythm, and quality.			Student Pulse _____ Faculty Pulse _____

Recommendation: Pass _____ Needs more practice/re-validation: _____

Assessing Respirations

Procedure Steps	Yes	No	Comments
1. Flexes patient's arm and places patient's forearm across chest or otherwise counts unobtrusively.			
2. Counts for 30 seconds if respirations regular; 60 seconds if irregular.			
3. Observes rate, rhythm, and depth.			Student Resp. _____ Faculty Resp. _____

Recommendation: Pass _____ Needs more practice/re-validation: _____

Measuring Blood Pressure

Procedure Steps	Yes	No	Comments
1. Positions patient sitting, feet on floor, legs uncrossed.			
2. Exposes arm (does not auscultate through clothing).			
3. Supports patient arm at the level of the heart.			
4. Uses appropriately sized cuff.			
5. Positions cuff correctly; wraps snugly.			
6. Palpates brachial artery, closes sphygmomanometer valve, and inflates cuff to determine mm Hg at which brachial artery can no longer be felt.			
7. Places stethoscope on brachial artery and continues to inflate cuff rapidly to 30 mm Hg above level previously determined by palpation.			

8. Ensures that stethoscope tubing is not touching anything.			
9. Releases pressure at 2-3 mm Hg/second.			
10. Records blood pressure.			Faculty BP _____ Student BP _____

Recommendation: Pass _____ Needs more practice/re-validation: _____

Comments:

Faculty Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____