



## **Technical Standards for Matriculation, Continuation, and Graduation**

Upon admission, students will affirm that they have reviewed and agree that they are capable of meeting the College of Pharmacy's technical standards with or without accommodations.

### Introduction

Certain technical standards for pharmacists and pharmacy students which must be met by all applicants and students consist of the minimum physical, cognitive, emotional, interpersonal, and communication requirements to provide reasonable assurance of completion of the entire course of student and degree requirements. Because the Pharm.D. degree signifies that the holder is a pharmacist prepared for entry into the practice of pharmacy, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge, skills, abilities and behaviors needed in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Applicants are selected for admission based not only on their scholastic ability but also on their intellectual, physical and emotional capacities to meet the requirements of the curriculum and a successful career in pharmacy.

Candidates for the Pharm.D. degree must possess aptitude, abilities, skills and behaviors in observation, sensory and motor function; communication; intellectual abilities involving conceptualization, integration and quantitation; and behavioral and social skills, abilities and aptitude. Students must personally demonstrate these technical standards in order to fulfill the essential course requirements of a general pharmacy education as well as eventual practice. These technical standards are prerequisites for entrance, continuation, promotion, retention and graduation from pharmacy school. Reasonable accommodation is available to assist with a variety of disabilities and may be permitted for disabilities in certain areas. Under all circumstances, a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Therefore third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the four areas specified below.

### Technical Standards

#### **I. Observation, Sensory and Motor Function**

Students must have sufficient motor function and sensory capacity to attend and participate effectively in all classroom, laboratories, recitations, conferences, clinical settings and activities that are part of the curriculum.

Students must be able to:

- Remain fully alert and attentive at all times in clinical, classroom and laboratory settings and meet applicable safety standards.
- Direct and supervise the safe and accurate compounding and preparation of medication dosage forms for distribution, administer medications and vaccinations, execute all aspects of the prescription process, and use computer based information systems.
- Provide general care to patients. Examples include: observing a patient's condition noting verbal and non-verbal signals, collecting relevant subjective and objective patient care information, and performing a basic physical exam which may include but is not limited to the skilled use of a stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, otoscope, monofilament, and point of care devices. Some aspects of patient care require that the student be able to act quickly, thus speed of motor function may be an essential requirement.

## II. Communication

Students must possess skills, attitudes and behaviors which allow for effective communication to diverse audiences.

Students must be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the English language sufficient to accomplish didactic, laboratory, and practice requirements in a timely, professional, and accurate manner.
- Demonstrate and use the knowledge acquired during the pharmacy education process to elicit, convey, clarify and transmit information (both in oral and written form) effectively, accurately, efficiently and sensitively to patients, their families and/or care givers and other member of the health care team. Communication and transmission of information includes reading, writing, listening, speaking, and using computers and electronic devices.
- Participate effectively and efficiently in large and small group discussions with colleagues, faculty and staff, and also in patient care settings where clinical decisions may depend on rapid communication.

## III. Intellectual Abilities including Conceptualization, Integration and Quantitation

Students must be able to learn effectively through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, experiential activities, preparation and presentation of written and oral reports, and use of computer-based technology.

Students must:

- Possess a range of intellectual skills that allows them to master the broad and complex body of knowledge that comprises a pharmacy education. This involves the assimilation of existing knowledge from a wide variety of sources and its application to professional practice. It also involves the synthesis of new knowledge through reasoning, the ability to think critically, and the capacity to comprehend spatial relationships and three-dimensional models.
- Possess an effective and efficient learning style. The ultimate goal will be to promptly and accurately solve difficult problems and make recommendations for therapeutic decisions in an organized manner. Students must be able to memorize, describe mechanisms of drug action and metabolism, perform scientific measurement and calculation, and ultimately, critically

evaluate biomedical literature. Reasoning abilities must be sophisticated enough to analyze and synthesize information from a wide variety of sources. Students must be able to gather and organize data, develop a plan of action, establish priorities, and monitor treatment plans and modalities.

#### IV. Behavioral and Social Skills, Abilities and Aptitude

Students must exhibit behaviors and attitudes befitting those of a healthcare professional and demonstrate the social skills required to function effectively in all classroom, laboratories, recitations, conferences, clinical settings and activities that are part of the curriculum. Students must also be of sufficient emotional health to utilize fully their intellectual ability, to exercise good judgment, to relate to others with courtesy, compassion, maturity and dignity, and to utilize appropriate coping responses in managing the stress of a rigorous academic and professional program and situations that may be physically, emotionally, and/or intellectually demanding. In the event of deteriorating function, students must be willing to acknowledge the situation and seek professional help before it poses danger to themselves or others.

Students must be able to:

- Adapt to new and changing environments, display flexibility, and cope with ambiguities inherent in clinical practice.
- Understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of pharmacy and function within the guidelines established by the law and by the ethical standards of the pharmacy profession.
- Demonstrate integrity, compassion, empathy, a caring attitude, tolerance, acceptance of diversity and differences, personal generosity toward others, thoughtfulness and a general concern and respect for other individuals.
- Accept appropriate recommendations and constructive criticism and demonstrate the ability to apply that information positively in their learning.