

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TECHNICAL AND HEALTH STANDARDS

Students earning the MD degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine are expected to have a strong sense of commitment to serving their community, to adhere to high ethical standards, and to be sensitive to individual, cultural, and ethnic differences that exist in society. We intend for our graduates to become competent and compassionate physicians who are capable of entering residency training and meeting all requirements for medical licensure. All graduates are required to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to provide safe and effective medical care in a wide variety of clinical settings. The avowed intention of an individual student to practice only a narrow part of clinical medicine or to pursue a non-clinical career does not alter the requirement that all medical students take and achieve competence in the full curriculum required by the faculty. The curriculum requires certain minimum abilities to assure that candidates are appropriate for admission, promotion, and graduation within the MD program.

A. TECHNICAL STANDARDS

In addition to the acquisition of the appropriate knowledge in the sciences and the humanities, the faculty of the College of Medicine agree that the successful medical student should demonstrate the following abilities and skills (defined as technical standards). These technical standards are requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended, the College of Medicine Council of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine requires that candidates meet the following standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, as a condition of participation in the medical education program. Assistive strategies that use trained intermediaries to obtain and interpret data from patients on behalf of the student will not be accepted as reasonable. Qualified students with documented disabilities are provided with reasonable and appropriate accommodations. Candidates are responsible for requesting accommodations in writing using the procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. All requests will be considered. The determination of whether a candidate meets the technical standards will be done on an individual, case by case basis utilizing the existing College of Medicine procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. If at any point in time after matriculation a candidate is no longer able to meet the technical standards s/he must notify the Assistant Dean for Academic Support to address these technical standards.

1) INTELLECTUAL, CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE SKILLS

- a. Demonstrate the ability to assimilate large amounts of detailed information from varied learning formats, integrate that information and be capable of utilizing it for problem solving.
- b. Process information and demonstrate the ability to reason, comprehend, measure, calculate, analyze, memorize, organize, and synthesize complex information.
- c. Perceive and understand visual spatial relationship structures and three dimensional relationships in order to appreciate experiences in the laboratory and clinical settings.
- d. Be able to use sound judgment, ethical and clinical reasoning, and possess the ability to make decisions appropriate to the care of patients.

2) COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- a. Demonstrate and use (in English) the knowledge acquired during the medical education process to elicit, convey, clarify and transmit information (in oral and written form) effectively, accurately, efficiently and sensitively to patients, their families and other members of the health care team.
- b. Be able to elicit information regarding mood, activity and posture and perceive nonverbal communication.
- c. Be able to present legible, accurate and skillful information in oral and written form to educators, patients, families and other members of the health care team.
- d. Be able to effectively and efficiently participate in sometimes fast paced small group discussions/interactions and in patient care settings where clinical decisions may depend on rapid communication.

3) BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

- a. Possess the emotional stability and maturity necessary to participate in the various learning formats of the curriculum, interact with others in a responsible and collaborative manner, function in a stressful and demanding environment, adapt to new and changing situations, and cope with ambiguity.
- b. Be prompt in completion of all responsibilities including but not limited to their own learning and the diagnosis and care of patients.
- c. Demonstrate integrity, respect, compassion, empathy, tolerance for differences and a general concern and respect for others.
- d. Be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments, accept constructive feedback from others, and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes.

4) MOTOR COORDINATION AND SENSORY SKILLS

- a. Possess sufficient motor function/coordination and all sensory abilities to participate effectively in all aspects of medical training.
- b. Through independent observation, the candidate must be able to acquire information across a broad range of learning modalities in the basic medical sciences and clinical experiences
- c. Be able to recognize normal versus abnormal and must be able to acquire and perceive sufficient medical information to accurately assess a patient's health status.
- d. Be able to respond to emergency situations in a timely manner.
- e. Be able to personally perform a comprehensive physical exam including inspection, palpation, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers and procedures.
- f. Either personally perform or direct and evaluate the performance by others of life-saving procedures (e.g., BLS, ACLS).

B. PATIENT HEALTH & SAFETY STANDARDS

As part of the admission, participation, promotion and/or graduation processes, candidates are required to comply with procedural safety measures affecting the well-being of patients (defined as patient health and safety standards).

1) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Not only is the review of applicant character and conduct as a citizen an important consideration for the student entering medical school, but it also impacts possible future licensure as a practicing physician, concerns the safety and well-being of patients, and has implications for liability issues affecting the medical school and affiliated clinical facilities. A criminal background check prior to matriculation into medical school is a standard requirement of the College of Medicine and of several clinical training sites. Candidates for matriculation to the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine must complete and pass two criminal background checks prior to commencing their studies. The existence of a conviction does not automatically disqualify an applicant for the medical school (relevant considerations may include but are not limited to: the date, nature and number of convictions, the relationship of the conviction to the profession and any rehabilitation efforts). The College of Medicine retains the sole discretion to decide whether an applicant with a conviction(s) may enter the program.

Failure to complete all criminal background check requirements by the deadlines provided by the College of Medicine can result in the withdrawal of an offer of admission. Clerkships, electives, educational activities as well as affiliated hospitals and programs might require additional background checks. Compliance with these background checks is a condition of continued enrollment.

2) IMMUNIZATIONS

Health care providers in contact with patients, especially those with compromised immune systems, are at-risk for contracting and transmitting infectious diseases. All candidates must maintain established College of Medicine immunization requirements for their own protection and the protection of their patients and the populations that they serve against preventable communicable illness. To this end, candidates must present proof of immunizations (an immunization history signed by your personal physician who is not a relative) prior to matriculation in accordance

with immunization requirements of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine or their offer of admission can be withdrawn.

All immunizations are required unless a variance is approved by University Health Services. Additional testing, evaluation and documentation may be required in individual cases. Clinical training sites might require additional immunizations. Compliance with these immunizations is a condition of continued enrollment. Students who do not remain in full compliance with all required immunizations may be suspended.

3) DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING

Individuals who are dependent on or impaired by alcohol or other substances are not suitable candidates for providing care to patients and, therefore, for admission, promotion, or graduation. Health care providers within our primary health system (UC Health) are expected to maintain a safe, productive, and drug- and alcohol-free environment and to perform their assigned duties safely and efficiently. Participation in clinical rotations at UC Health is an essential requirement of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's curriculum. UC Health requires all participants to submit a negative drug screen prior to participation in clinical rotations. Therefore, all College of Medicine candidates must pass a comprehensive, pre-matriculation drug screen according to the standards and requirements set forth and maintained by UC Health. Failure to pass this drug screen may result in the rescinding of an applicant's acceptance .

Following matriculation, "for cause" drug and alcohol testing may be initiated when concerns are raised regarding the performance, behavior, or actions of a medical student that indicate a reasonable suspicion for substance impairment. Compliance with "for cause" drug and alcohol testing of medical students is a condition of continued enrollment.

Approved EPC August 2, 2018

Approved College of Medicine Council September 13, 2018