



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Admissions

SUBJECT: Technical Standards

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INITIATED BY: Office of Student Affairs

APPROVED BY:

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POLICY: Technical Standards required for admission to and completion of the MD Degree

PURPOSE: To delineate the technical and behavioral requirements essential to the successful completion of the MD program at CMSRU.

SCOPE: This policy applies to all applicants and medical students at CMSRU.

PROCEDURE:

1. TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Technical Standards delineate the essential abilities and characteristics required for completion of the MD degree and are not intended to deter any students for whom reasonable accommodation will allow them to fulfill the requirements of the program. They consist of certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and emotional characteristics to assure candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation are able to participate fully in all aspects of medical training with or without reasonable accommodation. The technical standards are annually approved by the Executive Council acting on behalf of the faculty. Each year students, by signing the CMSRU Student Handbook attestation, will review and attest to their continued ability to meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

CMSRU applicants and students shall have the following abilities and skills:

a. Observation:

Students should be able to obtain information from demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. Students should be able to assess a patient and evaluate findings accurately. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.

b. Communication:

Students should be able to communicate with patients in order to elicit information, detect changes in mood, activity, and to establish a therapeutic relationship. Students should be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and all members of the health care team both in person and in writing.

c. Motor:

Students should, after a reasonable period of time, possess the capacity to perform a physical examination and perform diagnostic maneuvers. Students should be able to execute some motor movements required to provide general care to patients and provide or direct the provision of emergency treatment of patients. Such actions require some coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, balance, and equilibrium.

d. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:

Students should be able to assimilate detailed and complex information presented in both didactic and clinical coursework and engage in problem solving. Candidates are expected to possess the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit information. In addition, students should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships understand the spatial relationships of structures, and adapt to different learning environments and modalities.

e. Behavioral and Social Attributes:

Students should possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, fellow students, faculty, and staff. Students should be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They should be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, professionalism, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are expected during the education process.

f. Ethics and Professionalism:

Students should maintain and display ethical behaviors commensurate with the role of a future physician in all interactions with patients, faculty, staff, students, and the public. The candidate is expected to understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within the law and ethical standards of the medical profession.

2. COMMITMENT TO EQUAL ACCESS:

CMSRU is committed to diversity and to attracting and educating students who will make the population of healthcare professionals representative of the national population, including those with disabilities. As such, CMSRU actively collaborates with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and creates a respectful and accountable culture through our confidential and specialized disability support. Admitted students with disabilities are accommodated individually, on a case-by-case basis. We are committed to excellence in accessibility; we encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations.

3. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

- a. CMSRU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities who are able to fulfill the essential requirements and technical standards of CMSRU's program. We wish to ensure that access to our facilities, programs, and services is available to students with disabilities. CMSRU provides reasonable accommodations to students on a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA, 2008), and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- b. Admitted candidates with disabilities are confidentially reviewed by the Office of Student Affairs to determine whether there are any reasonable accommodations or alternative mechanisms that would permit the candidate to satisfy the standards. This process is informed by the knowledge that students with varied types of disability have the ability to become successful health professionals. If you are an applicant with a disability who may require

accommodations in our program we encourage you to contact Dr. Marion Lombardi at lombardim@rowan.edu or (856) 361-2805 for a confidential consultation.