School of Medicine Technical Standards for Admissions and Graduation

Attainment of the MD degree signifies that its holder is a physician prepared to enter the practice of medicine within the context of post-graduate medical education. Thus those individuals receiving the MD degree must be able to assume the responsibility of safely and ethically providing care to patients. Because graduates of medical school must be prepared to assume care for patients in a wide variety of clinical disciplines, the education for the MD degree is, by necessity, broad in nature. An avowed intention to practice only a narrow part of the curriculum does not alter the requirement that all students take the full curriculum.

The University recognizes that federal and state laws prohibit discrimination against disabled applicants and students, and that otherwise qualified candidates for the MD degree may be able to meet the technical standards described in this document, if provided reasonable accommodation. It should be noted, however, that the use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in situations where the candidate's judgment is impacted by the intermediary's powers of selection and observation. Thus, the use of personal aids, assistants, caregivers, readers, and interpreters may not be appropriate, particularly in clinical education settings. The University of California Irvine Disability Services Center will work with the candidate in determining whether reasonable accommodations are available.

To assure that students in the School of Medicine attain the desired level of competence prior to graduation, the faculty has established educational objectives. These are listed in the Medical Education Program section of this handbook. In order to attain these objectives, the faculty of the School of Medicine has determined that prospective and enrolled students must demonstrate an ongoing record of academic achievement. They must also demonstrate the ability to meet a predetermined set of intellectual, physical, and behavioral/social requirements described below as technical standards.
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Intellectual Abilities

A candidate for the MD degree (a prospective or enrolled student) must have sufficient intellectual cognitive capacities to assimilate a large volume of technically detailed and complex information presented through formal lectures, small group discussions, individual teaching sessions, clinical teaching sessions and independent learning activities. He/she must be able to critically analyze such information, to identify relevant material and appropriately apply such material to solve problems in a timely and effective manner. A candidate must be able to measure, calculate, analyze and synthesize data, appreciate three-dimensional spatial relationships among structures, and logical sequential relationships among events. He/she must also be able to form and test hypotheses.

Physical Abilities

A candidate for the MD degree must be able to acquire a defined level of information as presented through demonstrations and experiential activities in the basic sciences including but not limited to anatomic dissections, microscopic examination of tissues and microbial organisms and physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals. He/she must also be able to accurately observe a patient at a distance and close at hand, acquire information from written documents and visualize information presented in images from paper, films, slides or video. A candidate must be able to interpret radiological images, and other digital or analog graphic representations of anatomic, physiologic or pathologic data (such as ECGs). Such observation and information acquisition requires the functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensory functions.

Communication Abilities

A candidate for the MD degree must be able, after a reasonable period of training and experience, to communicate in an effective and sensitive manner with patients. The candidate must also be able, after a reasonable period of training and experience, to communicate with other health care providers effectively and efficiently in both oral and written forms and to in turn receive and understand oral and written communications.
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Motor Abilities

A candidate for the MD degree must after a reasonable period of training and experience, possess the capacity to perform physical examination and diagnostic maneuvers including but not limited to palpation, percussion auscultation, digital rectal examination, pelvic examination, and obtaining blood urine and other basic body fluid or tissue samples. He/she must be able to respond to emergency situations in a timely manner and provide general emergency care such as airway management, CPR, placement of intravenous catheters, simple wound repair, and basic obstetrical procedures. Such activities require physical mobility, coordination of both gross and fine motor neuromuscular function, and balance and equilibrium.

Behavioral and Social Abilities

A candidate for the M.D. degree must possess the emotional health, maturity, discipline, and professional attributes necessary for the competent practice of medicine. Certain characteristics are particularly crucial to the attainment of this competence. They include but are not limited to integrity, honesty, attendance and conscientiousness, empathy, a sense of altruism, and a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. The candidate for the M.D. degree must accept responsibility for learning, and exercise good judgment. He/she must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and manage the uncertainty inherent in the care of patients. The candidate for the MD degree must not have any active untreated alcohol or substance abuse related conditions. The candidate must be able and willing to be physically present for all required educational activities.

Safety

The University of California, Irvine and the School of Medicine have a responsibility to consider the safety of patients and others. Should a candidate for the MD degree pose a direct threat to the health or safety of patients or others, he/she may be denied admission or dismissed from the School of Medicine.
Evaluation and Determination of Adherence to the Technical Standards

All students entering and continuing in the School of Medicine must meet all of the technical standards, with reasonable accommodation if necessary, and each student will be expected to certify that he/she meets these standards. The School of Medicine or the Disability Services Center may require that a candidate for the MD degree undergo an evaluation to ascertain whether these technical standards can be met with reasonable accommodation, if necessary.

Student Responsibility

Applicants and students should contact the Disability Services Center, if they have any questions about reasonable accommodations. Students with disabilities who require accommodation shall register with the Disability Services Center. Students who fail to register with the Disability Services Center, or fail to provide necessary documentation, shall not be considered to be claiming or receiving accommodations under the federal or state disability laws.

I confirm that I understand and meet the Technical Standards listed above. I also understand my responsibility as a student to seek reasonable accommodations from Disability Services Center, if necessary.

__________________________  _________________
Student’s Signature        Date

__________________________
Printed Name