

USF College of Pharmacy Technical Standards

All candidates must meet the health and technical standards requisite for admission and participation in the educational programs of the College. The PharmD degree signifies that the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of pharmacy and graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of situations and render patient-centered, pharmaceutical care to patients.

A candidate for the PharmD degree must have aptitude, abilities, and skills in five areas: observation; communication; motor; conceptual, integrative and quantitative; and mature behavioral and social. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary would mean that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. Therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the five skill areas specified above. Reasonable accommodation can be made as appropriate, for disabilities in so much as the integrity of the program is upheld.

1. **Observation.** The candidate should be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to: physiologic, pharmaceutical, pharmacologic and microbiologic demonstrations involving animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate should be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

2. **Communication.** A candidate should be able to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate should be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. The candidate should be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of a health care team.

3. Motor Coordination and Function. Candidates should have sufficient coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements and equilibrium. The candidate must also have the functional use of the senses of touch and vision to perform laboratory experiments and provide pharmaceutical care required in the curriculum such as microbiology testing, pharmaceutical compounding, and/or physical assessment of the patient.

4. Intellectual - Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative

Abilities. These abilities required of the candidates include measurement, calculations, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of pharmacists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidates should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

5. Behavioral and Social. Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellect, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities in the provision of pharmaceutical care to patients and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and colleagues. The candidate must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. The candidate must be able to cope with strenuous workloads, and to cope with ambiguity in decision making. Empathy, compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are essential for the successful functioning pharmacist and should be assessed during the admission and educational processes.

The candidate for the PharmD degree must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. The candidate must be free of psychopathic or sociopathic behaviors which are contrary to professional and ethical standards. Emotional instability precludes the successful completion of the pharmacy curriculum. Any of the above behaviors are inconsistent with the standards of the Institution and will result in denial of admission or expulsion from the College.

Candidates must be intellectually honest, ethical, law-abiding and without felony convictions. Candidates should have no record of suspensions for academic misconduct or

behavior showing disregard for the law or other individuals, other than minor traffic violations.

6. General Health. The candidate must have sufficient physical stamina to perform strenuous workloads for long periods. Candidates should be free of chronic debilitating diseases that preclude successful completion of the pharmacy curriculum. The candidate must be free of active infectious diseases, which are highly contagious in a health care setting.

Technical Requirements

- a. The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and participate in experiments in the basic sciences.
- b. The candidate must be able to analyze, synthesize, extrapolate, solve problems, and reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments.
- c. The candidate must have sufficient use of the senses of vision and hearing and the somatic sensation necessary to perform a physical examination. The candidate must be able to perform palpation, auscultation, and percussion.
- d. The candidate must reasonably be expected to relate to patients and establish sensitive, professional relationships with patients.
- e. The candidate must reasonably be expected to communicate the results of the examination to the patient and to his/her colleagues with accuracy, clarity and efficiency.
- f. The candidate must reasonably be expected to perform with precise, quick and appropriate actions in emergency situations.
- g. The candidate must reasonably be expected to display good judgment in the assessment and treatment of patients.
- h. The candidate must reasonably be expected to possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the pharmacy college curriculum and enter pharmacy practice.

- i. The candidate must reasonably be expected to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.
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Implementation

The Admissions Committee will evaluate candidates according to the Technical Standards through review of records, written statements and interviews. Candidates will be provided a copy of the Technical Standards as part of the admissions materials. Accepted students will be required to sign a statement acknowledging receipt of Technical Standards. Admitted students who have falsified records or made false written or oral statements during the admission process shall be subject to expulsion from the College.

Applicants Certification of Ability to Meet Technical Standards

Signing this document, I certify that I am aware of the technical standards required of students in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of South Florida College of Pharmacy and I have determined that I am able to meet these requirements.

Print Name

Signature

Date