

Duquesne University School of Pharmacy Administrative Policy

Technical Standards for Pharmacy School Admission, Retention and Graduation

The School of Pharmacy has a responsibility to the University and to the public to assure its graduates can become fully functioning, competent pharmacists. It is important that persons admitted possess the intelligence, verbal and written communication skills, integrity, interpersonal skills, and physical and emotional capacity necessary to practice pharmacy.

Admission and retention decisions are based not only on satisfactory academic achievement, but also on non-academic technical standards that serve to insure that the candidate can complete the essential functions of the academic program and fully and successfully function in experiential programs as well as in career pharmacist positions post-graduation.

Technical standards, as distinguished from academic standards, refer to those physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum. The essential skills include: motor, sensory, verbal and written communication, intellectual, behavioral and social skills necessary for the successful provision of pharmaceutical care. Patient safety is a major factor in establishing these requirements.

In accord with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the 1993 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy is committed to enabling students with identified disabilities by reasonable means or accommodations to complete academic and experiential learning required for completion of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

All applicants are held to the same academic and technical standards of admission and training, with reasonable accommodations as needed for students with disabilities. All students will be expected to maintain the technical standards and demonstrate them through their coursework, interaction with peers and faculty, and in their professional experiences.

Students who fail to demonstrate the technical standards while in the program will be evaluated and appropriate action (e.g., remediation, counseling or dismissal) will be taken. This expectation is separate from academic achievement. If a candidate does not believe he or she will be able to meet these technical standards, they should meet with the Associate Dean, Professional Programs prior to submission of an application for admission or anytime throughout the program if it becomes evident that they will not be able to meet the standards through conclusion of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program.

Candidates for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program must be able to perform the essential functions in each of the designated categories: Observation, Communication, Motor, Intellectual, and Behavioral/ Social.

An applicant should evaluate him/her self in regards to compliance with these technical standards prior to submission of an application and entry into experiential education courses.

- I. **Observation:** The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments and patients clearly and accurately.
- II. **Communication:** A candidate must be able to speak, hear and observe patients and be able to communicate effectively with patients, caregivers and other health care providers. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in English in oral and written form with all members of the University and any health care team.
- III. **Physical Motor:** Candidates must have sufficient motor function to prepare pharmaceuticals; prepare, compound and dispense medications; and perform certain required aspects of patient assessment.
- IV. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** Measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis are necessary for problem solving, including comprehension of three-dimensional and spatial relationships.
- V. **Behavioral:** A candidate must possess the emotional health required for good judgment, and the development of effective relationships with patients, their caregivers and other health care providers. Candidates must be able to function effectively under stress and be able to adapt with flexibility. Compassion, integrity, and concern for others are all critical personal qualities of a successful candidate.

I have read and understand the Technical Standards established by the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy for Admission, Retention and Graduation in the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

** Reviewed and Approved by Executive Committee – 28 February 2014*