

## Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine Health and Technical Standards

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### **Technical Standards for Matriculation, Retention, and Graduation**

The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine indicates the holder is a physician who is prepared to enter into supervised practice in a Graduate Medical Education Training Program.

To be qualified for the D.O. degree, future training, and subsequent licensure, the candidate must demonstrate competency in five requisite areas: observation and sensory; communication; motor; intellectual-conceptual; and behavioral and social attributes. Students are required to demonstrate said competencies to provide safe and effective medical care in a wide variety of clinical environments.

The COM requires that students meet the technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, as a condition of enrollment in the osteopathic medical program. Reasonable accommodations, as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, do not alter the essential osteopathic curricular requirements and do not change the established standards of performance determined to be acceptable. The use of trained intermediaries to obtain and interpret data from patients will not be considered an acceptable or reasonable assistive strategies. The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' technical requirements may have more stringent standards than outlined in this document. Since accommodations do not apply retroactively, students seeking accommodations after acceptance are encouraged to apply for accommodations prior to July 1 in the year of matriculation.

Should a student's ability to meet the technical standards change at any point in the academic program, it is his/her responsibility to report this to the COM Director of Student Affairs.

### **1. Five Requisite Competency Areas**

#### **Observation and Sensory**

Students must be able to participate in demonstrations and experiments in the biomedical sciences including, but not limited to microbiologic cultures, microscopic examination of microorganisms and tissues, cadaver dissection, interpretation of ECGs, and radiographic images. Students must be able to observe a patient by gathering sensory information (visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile) to detect disease and dysfunction. Students must be able to use touch to detect changes in temperature and pressure to complete required physical examinations and perform osteopathic structural assessments.

## **Communication**

Students must be able to assess and communicate with patients to elicit information, describe changes in effect, activity, and posture and perceive nonverbal communications. Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with all members of the health care team.

## **Motor**

The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine curriculum is physically and mentally rigorous. The student must reliably and fully participate in the curriculum, including small group learning activities, simulation exercises, computer-based learning activities, computer-based examinations, and clinical rotations. Students must be able to independently perform physical examination maneuvers such as auscultation, palpation, and percussion to detect disease and dysfunction. Students must be able to independently perform a variety of procedures required for general and emergency patient care including, but not limited to venipuncture, bladder catheterization, arthrocentesis, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to stop severe bleeding, management of obstructed airways, suturing of simple wounds and performance of routine obstetrical and gynecologic procedures. Additionally, students must be able to perform these procedures within prescribed time limitations relative to the context of the practicing physician. Students must be able to independently perform therapeutic touch including Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine techniques. Students must be able to assist in surgical procedures which require standing for prolonged periods, participating in simulation exercises, and participating in medical/surgical rounds on hospital wards.

## **Intellectual - Conceptual**

Students must be able to demonstrate the ability to observe, measure, calculate and utilize information to engage in critical thinking and problem-solving in both individual and group contexts that are essential to the function of a physician. Students must also be able to comprehend multi-dimensional spatial relationships.

## **Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Students must exercise good judgment and act professionally, complete all responsibilities promptly and effectively, and attend to the diagnosis and care of patients while maintaining mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Students must be able to function effectively under stressful conditions, adapt to changing environments, and function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in the clinical care of patients. Compassion, integrity, empathy, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the educational process.

Students must be willing to perform a physical examination and therapeutic touch techniques including Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy. Students must be agreeable to having these techniques performed upon them as part of the curriculum requirements for the D.O. degree. Students must be willing to expose the head, neck, extremities (arms and legs), chest (with a sports bra for women), back, and abdomen for examination.

## **2. Health and Safety Measures**

Students are required to meet annual requirements for health and safety prior to matriculation and each academic year while enrolled in the program. These requirements include but are not limited to immunizations, background checks, drug screenings, and HIPAA and OSHA training. Students must follow the COM policies and procedures for obtaining and submitting this documentation according to all deadlines to matriculate and to progress in the program.