



American University of the Caribbean
School of Medicine

Technical Standards

Technical standards, distinguished from academic standards for admission, consist of the minimum physical, cognitive, and emotional requirements to provide reasonable assurance that students can complete the entire course of study and participate in medical training and practice.

The medical degree awarded at the completion of the undergraduate medical education process certifies that the individual has acquired a broad base of knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

Significantly, the school has a major responsibility for the well being of the patients with whom the student will come into contact both before and after graduation. Patient care is a major concern for establishing requirements for physical, cognitive, and emotional capabilities of candidates for admission.

A candidate's intention to ultimately practice in only a narrow portion of the spectrum of medicine does not obviate the requirement for participation in the entire training experience.

Candidates for the medical degree must have somatic sensation and functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. Candidates' diagnostic skills will also be lessened without the functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell and taste. Additionally, candidates must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain and temperature), sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis and vibratory) and sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow.

Candidates must be able to consistently, quickly and accurately integrate all information received by whatever senses(s) employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation, and as such is unacceptable.

Observation

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

Communication

Candidates should be able to speak English fluently, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and to perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. In addition, candidates must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

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

Motor

Candidates should have sufficient motor functions to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.), carry out diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, paracentesis, etc.) and evaluate EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full use 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. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to 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, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admissions and educational process.

Standards

It is possible that adherence to these standards may disqualify some students, including some who are handicapped. This is not to be considered as discrimination against those individuals but rather as adherence to technical standards designed to ensure that the medical degree attests to the basic acquisition of general knowledge in all fields of medicine, as well as the acquisition of the basic skills necessary for medical practice.

Learning Disability Test Accommodation

AUC follows the guidelines set for the USMLE as relates to test-taking accommodations. The test-taking accommodation of time plus one-half is the only accommodation available at AUC. Any students who would like to receive this accommodation must arrive at AUC with all supporting documentation and test results (as outlined in USMLE guidelines) already complete, for review by the Director of Student Services.

Application to Matriculated Students

These technical standards shall apply to all students in the medical degree program at American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. Implementation for matriculated students is within the purview of the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee.

Important! There are no facilities for the handicapped.

I certify that I have read and understand the above-listed Technical Standards for American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. I further certify that I satisfactorily meet all of these standards.