



## American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine

### TECHNICAL STANDARDS

#### Introduction

American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (AUC) is committed to the achievement of superior student outcomes for a diverse population of students. Learning is designed to provide all students with the best academic experience and support services to become extraordinary physicians.

Medicine is a physically and mentally demanding profession in which practitioners are asked to place the interests of their patients above their own, which requires commitment to a life of service, and dedication to continuous learning

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 variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. 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.

Students seeking admission and currently enrolled students should be aware that all students must meet technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations in addition to meeting academic standards. Students will be required to maintain satisfactory demonstration of both academic and technical standards for progression through the program.

Overall, the purpose of technical standards is to delineate the skills deemed essential for admission, continuation in and completion of the educational program. Technical standards are necessary to identify and communicate specific expectations for student performance in the academic and clinical environments. Reflected in the standards are those behaviors, knowledge, and skills that degree candidates must possess to engage safely and competently in required learning activities and in clinical practice to ensure the well-being of the patient/client, self, and others.

A candidate for AUC's doctoral degree must have abilities and skills in five areas: Acquiring Information, Developing Communication; Use and Interpretation of Data; Integration of Knowledge to Establish Clinical Judgment (Intellectual and Motor); and Developing Appropriate Professional Approaches, Behavior and Character.

AUC is committed to excellence in accessibility to education; we encourage students with disabilities to seek accommodations. To make an accommodation request contact the Office of Student Disability Services at [aucosds@adtalem.com](mailto:aucosds@adtalem.com) to begin the request process.

This document, contains AUC technical standards, based on guidelines produced by the Association of American Medical Colleges. AUC has a responsibility to society to train physicians who are prepared to care for their patients with critical judgment, broadly based knowledge, and well-honed

technical skills. The abilities that physicians must possess to practice safely are reflected in the technical standards that follow.

## **Technical Standards**

### **A. Acquiring Information**

Must demonstrate ability to learn in classroom and clinical settings and acquire the knowledge as well as to be a life-long learner who can adapt their skills to new developments and techniques

- Acquire knowledge from demonstrations and experiences in didactic, experiential learning, and clinical environments, which include group, and physical demonstrations as well as observations of patients.
- Acquire knowledge from written documents and electronic systems which include scholarly articles and journals, films, slides, and videos
- Recognize and assess patient changes in mood, activity, cognition, verbal, and non-verbal communication.
- Interpret X-ray and other graphic images, and digital or analog representations of physiologic phenomena, such as EKGs
- Participate in scientific experiments, including but not limited to activities such as: dissecting cadavers; examining specimens in anatomy, pathology, and neuroanatomy laboratories; microscopic studying of microorganisms and tissues (both in normal and pathological states); review of diagnostic images and information
- Obtain and analyze medical history

### **B. Developing Communication**

Must demonstrate communication skills for sensitive and effective interactions with patients, families and/or communities and members of the healthcare teams.

- Communicate effectively with patients, and all members of the healthcare team in didactic, experiential learning, and clinical environments.
- Elicit information including a medical history & other details to adequately and effectively evaluate a patient's condition
- Perceive and interpret non-verbal communication, including body language and facial expressions
- Maintain accurate patient records
- Communicate effectively in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity cognition and posture, and assess communications
- Deliver communication that is concise, pertinent and complete to ensure safe transitions in care or elicit action in critical situations
- Understand and convey information essential for the safe and effective care of patients in a clear unambiguous and rapid fashion in emergency situations

### **C. Use and Interpretation of Data**

Must accurately perform physical examinations and diagnostic exercises to assess and monitor health needs. Be proficient in performing and directing basic laboratory testing. Must meet applicable safety standards for the environment and follow universal precaution procedures.

- Perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers
- Perform basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.)
- Carry out diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, paracentesis, etc.)
- Provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers.
- Obtain and interpret information from assessment of patient's environment and responses to health across the continuum (spanning time and differing circumstances)
- Perform universal precautions against contamination
- Formulate and test hypotheses that enable effective and timely problem-solving in diagnosis and treatment of patients in a variety of settings and clinical modalities

#### **D. Integration of Knowledge to Establish Clinical Judgment (Intellectual and Motor)**

Synthesize information, problem solve and think critically to judge the most appropriate theory assessment strategy, and plan of care. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data related to patient diagnosis and treatment of patients. Re-evaluate plan of care and make appropriate changes based on patient's clinical indicators as well as physiologic and psychologic response.

- Develop and evaluate plans of care
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize in a timely fashion.
- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- Respond to emergency situations in a timely fashion to provide general emergency care
- Possess the capacity to perform physical examination (e.g., eliciting information from patients via palpation, auscultation, and percussion), as well as successfully carry out diagnostic maneuvers

#### **E. Developing Appropriate Professional Approaches, Behavior and Character**

Candidates must demonstrate throughout their medical education compassion, integrity, concern for others, necessary and appropriate interpersonal skills, interest and motivation.

- Maintain mature, sensitive, effective relationships with clients/patients, families, students, faculty, staff, other professionals under all circumstances.
- Exercise skills of diplomacy to advocate for patients' needs.
- Manifest concern for others
- Demonstrate integrity, accountability, interest, and motivation
- Possess qualities of adaptability, flexibility, and the ability to function in the face of uncertainty
- Exhibit sufficient interpersonal skills, knowledge and attitudes to interact positively and sensitively with people from all parts of society, ethnic backgrounds, and belief systems
- Demonstrate intent and willingness to follow the American Medical Association Principles of Ethics