Medical College of Georgia
Academic Affairs

Technical Standards for Admission, Matriculation, Continuation, and Graduation

The following abilities and characteristics are defined as technical standards, which in conjunction with academic standards established by the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia are requirements for admission, matriculation, continuation and graduation. Delineation of technical standards is required for the accreditation of U.S. medical schools by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

Certain technical standards for medical students which must be met by all applicants and students consist of the minimum physical, cognitive, emotional, interpersonal, and communication requirements to provide reasonable assurance of completion of the entire course of study and degree requirements. Because the M.D. degree signifies that the holder is a physician prepared for entry into the practice of medicine within postgraduate training programs, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills needed in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Applicants are selected for admission based not only on their scholastic ability, but also on their intellectual, physical and emotional capacities to meet the requirements of the curriculum and a successful career in medicine.

Candidates for the M.D. degree must possess aptitude, abilities, and skills in observation; communication; motor function and coordination; intellectual abilities involving conceptualization, integration and quantitation; and behavioral and social skills, abilities and aptitude. Students must personally demonstrate these technical standards in order to fulfill the essential course requirements of a general medical education as well as eventual practice. These technical standards are pre-requisites for entrance, continuation, promotion, retention and graduation from medical school. Reasonable accommodation is available to assist with a variety of disabilities and may be permitted for disabilities in certain areas. Under all circumstances, a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the five areas specified below.
Graduates of the medical school must function in a broad variety of clinical situations and render a wide spectrum of patient care. The Medical College of Georgia acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational and Rehabilitation Act, PL101-336, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAA) but maintains certain minimum technical standards for medical students enrolled at the Medical College of Georgia:

I. Observation: Candidates and students must have sufficient visual acuity to make accurate observations, both close at hand and at a distance. Examples are studies of microbiological cultures, identification of normal and abnormal cells, identification of anatomical structures, direct visual observation of patient physical findings and interpretation of radiographic images. Observation necessitates the use of the sense of vision as well as other sensory modalities such as touch, hearing and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the use of smell. In any case where a candidate’s ability to observe or acquire information through these sensory modalities is compromised, the candidate must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to acquire and demonstrate essential information conveyed in this fashion.

II. Communication: Candidates and students must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues and to relate effectively and sensitively with patients of all genders; as well as ages, races, life-styles, sexual orientations and cultural backgrounds. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. Candidates and students must be able to read and to record observations and plans legibly, efficiently and accurately in documents such as the patient medical electronic record. The candidate and student must be able to communicate effectively with patients and family members and elicit a clinical history thus possessing reading skills at a level sufficient to accomplish curricular requirements and provide clinical care for patients. The candidate must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language and communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

III. Motor Function and Coordination: Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function such that they are able to perform a physical examination as well as provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Performing a given skill requires the use of a variety of senses which must be integrated effectively with sensorimotor function. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the closure 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.
IV. Intellectual Abilities including Conceptualization, Integration and Quantitation: Candidates and students should possess intellectual abilities including measuring, calculating, reasoning, analyzing and synthesizing information. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities and often must be performed quickly, especially in emergency situations. In addition, candidates and students should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. They must be able to analyze clinical data and make logical diagnoses and therapeutic judgments for patients. The candidate and student must be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely manner.

V. Behavioral and Social Attributes: Candidates and students must possess the emotional stability required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities including good judgment, prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and development of mature, sensitive, non-judgmental, non-prejudiced and effective relationships with patients. Candidates and students must be able to work within a team, to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients and to function under stress. Candidates and students must maintain appropriate personal hygiene and appearance. Honesty, compassion, integrity and concern for others are all personal qualities that are necessary in medical students and physicians. Throughout the clinical curriculum, students must be able to consistently complete a history and physical examination on any patient, regardless of the patient’s race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, age or sexual orientation.

The Medical College of Georgia will, if requested, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified enrolled students and applicants with disabilities unless: (a) such accommodations impose an undue hardship to the institution or threaten harm to the health and safety of others due to the disability or (b) such accommodations fundamentally alter the educational program or academic standards of the medical college.

Students may request accommodations at any time but are asked to annually update their review and understanding of the Technical Standards for MCG as well as their ability to meet these technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations prior to the beginning of each academic year. Late requests could result in a delay of accommodations and accommodations cannot be made retroactive.

The Medical College of Georgia will consider for admission, matriculation, continuation and graduation individuals who demonstrate the knowledge and ability to perform or learn to perform the skills described in this document. Individuals will be assessed not only on their scholastic accomplishments but also on their physical and emotional capacities to meet the requirements of the school’s curriculum and to graduate as skilled and effective practitioners of medicine.