

Technical Standards

One of the primary missions of the College of Pharmacy is to prepare outstanding pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to meet the health care needs of the state and society and to enhance the delivery of essential pharmacy services for all citizens. The faculty of the college strives to deliver an education that will, through the graduates of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, attain the highest levels of this goal.

The professional program leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree and eligibility for pharmacist licensure requires a certain level of cognitive, behavioral and technical skill and ability inherent in a professional education. These principles and standards hold for admission, progression, retention and completion of the program. The primary role of the pharmacist is to provide safe and effective health care to the patients served. Patient safety must be considered in the selection and education of student pharmacists. To foster patient safety, the college requires all student pharmacists to demonstrate the ability to meet the minimum standards set forth herein. Technical Standards refer to nonacademic admissions and matriculation criteria that are essential to participation in the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in preparation for licensure as a practicing pharmacist and for postgraduate professional training and education in any of the varied fields of pharmacy.

Student pharmacists must reasonably contribute to a safe environment through their personal physical and mental health and social behavior. Students must complete the academic program in a reasonable length of time, with or without accommodations, be able to acquire a pharmacy intern certificate upon matriculation into the program, maintain the pharmacy intern certificate during their educational program, and be eligible for a pharmacist license after they complete the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

All students are expected to successfully fulfill the essential functions or requirements of the academic program, with or without reasonable accommodations including the academic as well as technical requirements. Some individuals with disabilities, provided that the student meets the essential eligibility requirements, may need reasonable accommodations to meet the College's Technical Standards, while others may not. Students who seek reasonable accommodations for a disability, medical condition, or temporary injury/condition must contact the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Reasonable education-related accommodations or modifications will be provided according to the University's Accommodating Students with Disabilities policy, which is contained in the MUSC Bulletin.

The five standards listed below describe the essential functions students must demonstrate to fulfill the requirements of a general pharmacy education, and thus are prerequisites for entrance to, continuation in, and graduation from the college, with or without reasonable accommodations or modifications in policies, practices, or procedures in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A student must possess the aptitudes, abilities,

and skills outlined below.

Observation: Observation necessitates the functional use of visual, auditory and somatic senses. Students must have the ability to observe and evaluate, in classrooms and patient care areas, demonstrations, experiments and patients, including performing physical assessments. Observation of the technical quality of pre-manufactured as well as compounded medications is essential.

Communication Skills: As appropriate for each stage of their education, student pharmacists must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written English, to hear, and to listen to patients to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive verbal as well as non-verbal communications. Students must also communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written English, to hear, and to listen to faculty, staff, other health care professionals, and preceptors. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading, writing, hearing, and computer literacy. They must be capable of completing professional communication activities in a timely manner.

Motor Skills: Student pharmacists must have the coordination of muscular movement to undertake the preparation of all routine forms of medication orders, the use of diagnostic equipment for patient assessment, and the direct delivery of patient therapies. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: As appropriate for each stage of their education, student pharmacists must demonstrate a fundamental and continuing ability to use analytical reasoning to independently and in collaboration with a health care team synthesize knowledge, solve problems and explain health care situations. Information must be obtained, retrieved, evaluated and delivered in an efficient and timely manner. Students must be able to demonstrate good judgment in patient care and assessment and incorporate new and changing information obtained from the practice environment.

Behavioral and Social Attributes: Student pharmacists must demonstrate professional and ethical demeanor appropriate to their educational level. Students must be able to function within the regulatory and institutional limits of the educational environment and modify behaviors based on criticism. Students must demonstrate compassion and integrity and a concern for others. This requires responsibility for personal action and emotional stability under the stressful conditions that may come from their professional education.

Individuals with questions or concerns about their ability to meet these standards are encouraged to contact the Dean for Student Affairs.