

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND GRADUATION

School of Medicine Advanced Degree Programs
Virginia Commonwealth University

Technical standards presented in this document are pre-requisite for admission to and graduation from the advanced degree programs of the School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University. VCU acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, but ascertains that certain essential technical standards must be present to successfully complete advanced degree training in the programs housed in the School of Medicine.

A candidate for an advanced degree must have aptitude abilities and skills of five varieties including observation; communication; motor; conceptual; integrative and quantitative; and behavioral and social. Reasonable accommodation may be made for an individual with a documented disability. An individual who believes that they may qualify for reasonable accommodations while enrolled in the advanced degree programs in the School of Medicine must contact the appropriate disability office at VCU (<http://www.students.vcu.edu/dss/> , 804-828-9782, HCESSS@vcu.edu). The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation; therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the five skill areas specified above.

I. Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, such as physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

II. Communication: A candidate should be able to speak, to hear, and to observe in order to elicit and communicate information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and professionally with co-workers, faculty and colleagues. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms in English. A candidate should be able to effectively communicate in settings when the time span available for communication is limited.

III. Motor: Candidates should have sufficient motor function to perform laboratory procedures that are required to satisfy requirements in their respective programs. Many advanced degree programs require the conduct of a laboratory-based research investigation as an obligatory component of training. The laboratory research component of training includes the development of manual skills along with the integration of information obtained by observation and communication. Examples of such skills include but are not limited to the preparation and manipulation of small samples of materials, operation/modification/repair of instrumental systems, appropriate utilization of laboratory equipment and the ability to monitor experiments in progress and record outcomes appropriately. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

IV. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of scientists, 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.

V. Behavioral and Social Attributes: A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his 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 colleagues and co-workers. 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 to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the nature of investigations conducted to explore the fundamental properties of systems relevant to the biomedical disciplines. Integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the educational processes.

My signature below certifies that I have read and understand and can meet the technical standards for the advanced degree programs of the School of Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Print Name

V _____
Student ID Number

Signature

Date