



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official:
Senior Associate Dean for MD Programs,
Associate Dean of Admissions
Responsible Office: Office of Student
Affairs, Office of Admissions
Most Recent Review: 11/2023

POLICY ON GW SMHS MD PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Policy Statement

It is essential for all medical graduates to have the knowledge and skill to function in a variety of clinical situations and to provide a wide spectrum of patient care as required by the curriculum. In order for students to be able to master a common body of basic science knowledge and master the principles, knowledge, and procedures of the major required clinical specialty clerkships, each student is required to independently demonstrate specific capabilities and abilities.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

To provide current George Washington School of Medicine and Health Science (SMHS) MD applicants and students with expectations of sufficient capabilities and abilities required for the program. This document applies to prospective applicants and students of all years of medical school education (MD program) at GWSMHS.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

Current students, staff, faculty, and prospective applicants

Policy

The faculty of the SMHS consider it essential for all medical graduates to have the knowledge and skill to function in a variety of clinical situations and to provide a wide spectrum of patient care as required by the curriculum. Therefore, every medical student must master a common body of basic science knowledge and master the principles, knowledge, and procedures of the core required disciplines. Fulfillment of the technical standards for graduation does not mean the graduate will meet the technical standards of any residency program. This requires that every student have sufficient capacities and abilities in:

- Communication
- Observation
- Motor/tactile function
- Emotions/Intellect

The MD degree is, thus, an undifferentiated degree requiring that each student independently demonstrate these capabilities. Surrogates cannot be used to accomplish the essential requirements. Students may not have undue dependence on technology or trained intermediaries.

Communication includes the ability to speak, hear, read, and write sufficiently to achieve adequate exchange of information with other healthcare professionals, patients, and their support network.

Observation includes the ability to perceive, using senses and mental abilities, the presentation of information through lectures, small groups and one-to-one interactions, and written and audiovisual materials. Students must be able to directly observe a patient's medical condition. Other examples of use of perceptual abilities include but are not limited to gross and microscopic studies of organisms, cadaver dissections, and various diagnostic studies (including but not limited to interpreting electrocardiograms, chest x rays, mental status examinations, and auscultatory findings.)

Motor function includes the ability to perform physical examinations, basic laboratory, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures. These procedures include but are not limited to urinalysis, airway management, insertion of nasogastric tubes and urinary catheters, pelvic and rectal examinations, obstetrical maneuvers, suturing, venipuncture, and arterial blood draws.

Emotional and higher level-intellectual abilities must be demonstrated. These include aptitude for rapid problem solving; rational thought; visual-spatial comprehension; understanding, synthesizing and recalling materials; interpreting results of patient interactions, examinations, and procedures; and ability to formulate diagnostic and treatment plans. Students must have the ability for sound judgment and be able to function under physically taxing and stressful situations such as overnight call and lengthy working hours.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for applicants with disabilities who can meet the requirements noted above. These accommodations must be accomplished without altering the essential requirements of our medical education. Any student requesting an accommodation should contact Disability Student Services at 202 994 8259. If DSS determines an accommodation is appropriate they will notify Student Affairs in the SMHS.

In case an accepted applicant requires accommodations that may compromise the applicant's ability to meet the technical standards, an ad hoc committee that includes the Deans of Admissions, Associate Deans of Student Affairs, the Senior Associate Dean for MD programs, a representative from the Disability Student Services and a representative from the Legal Counsel's office will convene to make a determination.

In case a current student requires accommodations that may compromise the student's ability to meet the technical standards, an ad hoc committee that includes the Deans of Admissions, Associate Deans of Student Affairs, Associate Dean of Clinical Curriculum, Assistant Dean of Preclinical Curriculum, a faculty member from the Medical Student Evaluation Committee, the Senior Associate Dean for MD programs, a representative from the Disability Student Services and a representative from the Legal Counsel's office will convene to make a determination.

Contact

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Who Approved This Policy

Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Medical Center Faculty Senate 2006
Executive Committee of the SMHS Faculty Assembly, 8/23/2015

History/Revision Dates

Amended: Approved by Medical Center Faculty Senate, 05/02/2007

Amended: Approved by Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 11/21/2006

Amended: Review by Associate Dean of Admissions, 04/01/2014 Amended:

Executive Committee of the SMHS Faculty Assembly, 08/27/2015

Amended: Approved by Faculty Assembly Executive Committee,

Reviewed by Associate Dean for MD Admissions, February 2023

Amended: Approved by Faculty Assembly Executive Committee,

Reviewed by Associate Dean for MD Admissions, December 2023