

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, RETENTION, PROMOTION AND CERTIFICATION FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR IN MEDICINE

Introduction

The mission of the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine (SJBSM) is to educate a culturally and linguistically diverse generation of physicians to practice medicine with the highest level of knowledge, skills, values, and competence to address the health needs of underserved and medically vulnerable populations.

In order to accomplish the mission, the students must have the physical, cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal abilities to meet the requirements of the school's curriculum and to interact with patients throughout their medical school education. The necessary abilities and characteristics of candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation that will ensure both students' and patients' safety and wellbeing are referred to as **Technical Standards** and are described below.

The following technical standards are based on standards suggested by the Special Advisory Panel on Technical Standards for Medical School Admissions convened by the AAMC (Memorandum #79-4) in January, 1979*. **The technical standards were formally adopted and approved by the Faculty Executive Committees, are reviewed annually by the Admissions Committee, and are updated periodically.** These guidelines specify the attributes considered essential for completing medical school training and for enabling each graduate to enter graduate medical education and clinical practice.

The School believes that all applicants must possess the intellectual, physical, and emotional capabilities necessary to undertake the required curriculum in a reasonably independent manner without having to rely on the assistance of others or intermediaries, and that all applicants must be able to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. All applicants for admission, regardless of disability, are expected to be competitive with others in the applicant pool in academic, personal, and extracurricular attributes.

The SJBSM will consider for admission and continuation any applicant or student who possesses all of the abilities described in the five (5) categories listed in this document, with or without reasonable accommodations, as determined by the Student Programs Coordination (Accessibility Services) Office and consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Fulfillment of the technical standards does not guarantee that a graduate of the program will be able to fulfill the technical standards for employment, graduate medical education, or certifying boards. Candidates with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Students Programs Director, Yaidy L. Cruz Cordero, M.Ed., at (787) 743-3038 Ext. 233, 212 or ylcruzcordero@sanjuanbautista.edu, early in the application process to discuss accommodation needs

Technical (Non-academic) Standards for Medical School Admission

A candidate for the MD degree must have abilities and skills in the five functional areas described below. The candidate must have the physical and emotional stamina and capacity to function in a competent manner, consistent with these standards, in the classroom, and in the clinical and laboratory settings, including settings that may involve heavy workloads, long hours, and stressful situations.

1. Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to anatomic, physiologic, and pharmacologic demonstrations, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the sense of smell.

2. Communication: A candidate must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team. **At SJBSM a candidate must be able to quickly, clearly, effectively, and efficiently communicate and elicit information in both English and Spanish languages. Communication in both languages includes oral and written forms, not only with patients, but also with all members of the academic and health care communities.**

3. Motor: Candidates must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers that comprise a complete physical examination (including pelvic examination.) A candidate must be able to perform the basic and advanced clinical procedures that are requirements of the curriculum. A candidate must be able to execute the motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and the functional use of the senses of touch, vision, and hearing.

4. Intellectual: Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem-solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires that a candidate be able to learn, retrieve, analyze, sequence, organize, synthesize, and integrate information efficiently, and reason effectively. In addition, the candidate should be able to measure and calculate accurately, and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes: A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her 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 patients. Candidates must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as

part of the healthcare team, and to interact with patients, their families, and the healthcare personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are required.

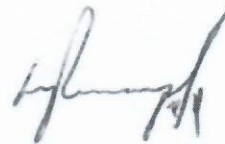
Technological compensation or the use of not-service animals as defined by ADA (i.e. emotional/ therapy support animals) can be made in certain of these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. **The use of a trained intermediary, a person trained to perform essential skills on behalf of the candidate, or a person used such that a candidate's judgement must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation, is not permitted.**

In addition to the abilities and skills set forth above, candidates must possess the general physical health necessary for performing the duties of a medical student and physician in training without endangering the lives of patients and/or colleagues with whom the student might have contact. Candidates whose performance is impaired by abuse of alcohol or other substances are not suitable candidates for admission, continuation, promotion, or graduation.

Process for Assessing the Applicant's Compliance with the Technical Standards

Applicants are required to attest at the time they accept an offer to matriculate that they meet the School's Technical Standards, and thereafter must attest on an annual basis that they continue to meet the Standards. These Standards are not intended to deter any student who might be able to complete the requirements of the curriculum with reasonable accommodations. Requests from applicants for reasonable accommodations in meeting the Technical Standards will be reviewed and considered by the Office of the Student Programs Director. Students requesting accommodations must complete the Reasonable Accommodations Request Form. For additional information about the School's process for assessing an applicant's compliance with the Technical Standards, contact Yaidy L. Cruz Cordero, M.Ed. at ylcruzcordero@sanjuanbautista.edu or (787) 743-3038 Ext. 233, 212.

EFFECTIVENESS: The disposition contained in the Executive Order will be effective immediately.



Yocasta Brugal, M.D.
President/Dean

Approved: June 27, 2008
Revised: January 31, 2017
January 25, 2022