

Technical Standards for Admission to, Advancement in and Graduation from Medical School

In addition to the academic requirements for admission, students in Medicine must also meet the technical standards that are deemed essential for training and practice in the profession. Note that the use of an intermediary, a person trained to perform essential skills on behalf of the student, or a person used such that a student's judgement must be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection, is not permitted. These standards are outlined under the following headings.

Observation

A student must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to anatomic dissection, microscopic studies and patient demonstrations. A student must be able to visually interpret presented information requiring the functional use of vision, hearing, touch, and sometimes smell.

Communication

A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, caregivers, faculty/staff, and all members of the healthcare team. The focus of this communication is to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive both verbal and non-verbal communication. A student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written English with all members of the healthcare team.

Sensory/Motor

The student must have sufficient motor function and skills necessary to perform basic tasks in the practice of medicine. Examples of such tasks include anatomic dissection, basic microscopy, physical examination, auscultation, palpation, percussion, venipuncture, suturing and the provision of basic life support. Such activities require the coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses.

Intellectual (Conceptual Integrative and Quantitative Abilities)

A student must have the ability to accurately, competently and independently measure, calculate, reason, analyse, synthesize and integrate data and information relevant to patient care. In order to deliver appropriate patient care, students must be alert and attentive at all times in clinical settings and use their skills in a timely manner to formulate a logical diagnosis and an effective treatment plan.

Behavioural/Social

A student must be of sufficient emotional health to utilize fully his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgement, and prompt completion of all patient care responsibilities in the interest of patient safety. A student must possess the ability to develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, including those whose gender, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation or beliefs are different from their own. A student should be able to work effectively and respectfully as part of the healthcare team, be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. A student should be able to tolerate physically and emotionally taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. A student must possess compassion, integrity, high moral character, interpersonal skills and motivation to excel in the practice of medicine. A student must abide by the laws of the country and adhere to the code of conduct of the Medical School and the University.

<https://sta.uwi.edu/resources/documents/conduct.pdf>;

https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies/resources/document_library/codesprncples3_000.aspx

Health

Certain illnesses may impair a student's performance. These include, but are not limited to active drug and/or alcohol addiction, severe depression and other psychiatric illnesses or severe medical illness. A student must strive to maintain the highest level of personal health, to demonstrate to patients and to the public that they are able to provide the highest quality of medical care.