

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, PROMOTION AND GRADUATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE (PREDOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL PROGRAMS)

Effective Date: 7/29/2013

Decisions by the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine's (subsequently referred to herein as "School") Admissions Committees are based on prior scholastic achievement, personality and emotional characteristics, motivation, industry, resourcefulness, and personal health. Admission decisions do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, or national origin or against persons with a disability. Students must possess the intelligence, integrity, and personal and emotional characteristics appropriate to the successful dentist.

The University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine is committed to the principle of providing an educational setting that facilitates the greatest success for all students, within their individual abilities, who are qualified for admission into programs at the School. In that spirit, admission to the College is open to all qualified individuals in compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

The School of Dental Medicine is mindful of the unique nature of the dental curriculum. As a primary surgical specialty, the dental curriculum must include, in addition to the accumulation of certain scientific knowledge, the simultaneous acquisition of essential surgical skills, technical functions, and professional attitudes and behaviors. During the process, the student is required to direct or perform treatment on the School's patients safely and within an acceptable amount of time. Students must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the education. With this in mind, any student or applicant seeking admission, enrollment (first time or continued) or graduation as a student (subsequently referred to herein as "student") must be able to meet the following technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations. The following are implemented to achieve this goal:

I. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

A student for the DDS degree must possess abilities and skills which include those that are sensory/observational, communicational, motor, intellectual-conceptual (integrative and quantitative), and behavioral and social. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in many pre-clinical and clinical situations in that it means that a student's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. The attainment of knowledge mandates that the candidate attend classes, laboratories and clinics on a regular basis as defined in the dental school's attendance policies.

II. SENSORY/OBSERVATION

GENERAL: A student must be able to acquire a defined level of required information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and dental sciences. **SPECIFIC:** This includes, but is not limited to, information conveyed through physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiological cultures, microscopic images of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A student must be able to acquire information from written documents, including charts and patient records, and to visually see information presented in images from paper, films, slides or video. A student must interpret xray and other graphic images. A student must have functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensation while being enhanced by the functional use of sensory modalities.

GENERAL: A student must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a reasonable distance and close at hand, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing dental operations or administering medications.

SPECIFIC: A student must be able to perform visual and tactile dental examinations and treatment including use of visual acuity with an ability to discern differences and variations in color, shape, and general

appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues. Use of tactile senses may be either direct palpation or indirect through instrumentation. A student must also possess the visual acuity to distinguish colors intra- and extra-orally and to make such visual observations as are necessary to provide diagnosis and treatment.

III. COMMUNICATION

GENERAL: A student must be able to: communicate effectively and sensitively with patients; convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. Communications include speech and writing. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

SPECIFIC: A student must have sufficient facility with English to: retrieve information from texts and lectures and communicate concepts on written exams and patients charts; elicit patient backgrounds; describe patient changes in condition, symptoms, moods, activity, and posture; and coordinate patient care with all members of the health care team.

IV. MOTOR SKILLS

GENERAL: It is required that a student possess the motor skills necessary to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, visual acuity for safe patient care, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Students must have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and treatment to patients.

SPECIFIC: A student must be able to perform basic life support (including CPR), and to position himself/herself around the patient and chair at heights and locations necessary to achieve effective patient treatment, including positioning the patient. The candidate must be able to operate all dental equipment and tools commonly necessary to the effective treatment of patients, operate high and low speed dental movements of less than one millimeter and utilize hand instrumentation (including scalpels for surgical procedures).

V. INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

GENERAL: The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize.

SPECIFIC: The student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of dentists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. The student must be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion.

VI. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

GENERAL: A student must possess the behavioral qualities and mannerisms 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.

SPECIFIC: A student must be able to tolerate intellectually and physically-taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. He/She must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Compassion,

integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interests, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes. Further, a student must be able to manage apprehensive patients with a range of moods and behaviors in a tactful, congenial, personal manner so as not to alienate and/or antagonize them. A student must reasonably be expected to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

SPECIFIC: The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment consistent with the profession, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships.

VII. ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

GENERAL: A student must possess the self-discipline and integrity to maintain the standards of conduct for ethics and professionalism as set forth in the [American Dental Association's Principles of Ethics](#) and Code of Professional Conduct and the [School's Honor Code](#).

SPECIFIC: A student must always act in the best interest of the patient and society even when there is a conflict with the student's personal self-interest. The student must conduct oneself as a trustworthy and responsible citizen and act with impeccable integrity in their interactions with students, faculty, staff and the public. A student must refrain from actions that detract from the professional atmosphere or orderly appearance of the School of Dental Medicine or University, including personal appearance or other actions. This expectation would also apply when attending any school-sponsored or related activities such as preceptorships, externships, external off-site rotations, and Advanced Clinical Training and Service (ACTS) rotations.

The University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine recognizes the award of a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree carries with it the full authority of the institution and communicates to those who might seek the services of the bearer that he or she is competent to practice dentistry. The DDS degree is a broad degree unique in that the graduate is prepared, and upon licensure is allowed, to practice all disciplines of the dental profession. This requires that the student in the curriculum acquire didactic knowledge, as well as learning skills and attitudes essential to the profession and agreed upon by the faculty as requisite for the practice of dentistry. The student requires both cognitive skills, technical skills and emotional/physical wellbeing to satisfy the requirements of this curriculum.

It is the policy of the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability who can perform the essential functions as outlined in the above technical standards. Whether or not a requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on an individual basis. Determining what is a reasonable accommodation is an interactive process, which the candidate/student should initiate with the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, in conjunction with the Office of Disability Resources and Services (www.ucdenver.edu/disabilityresources), prior to and/or during the Doctor of Dental Medicine education program.

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continued....

I, the undersigned, have read and can meet the Technical Standards necessary for Admission, Promotion and Graduation at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.

Signature

Date

Print Name