

Technical Standards for Admissions, Continuation, and Graduation

Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (SPHS) is committed to providing a pharmacy degree without regard to disability, while assuring that academic and technical standards are met. Technical standards represent the essential non-academic requirements that a student must demonstrate to successfully participate in the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program and meet the professional competency requirements. Students must demonstrate competence in intellectual, physical, and social tasks that represent fundamentals of being able to successfully complete the curriculum in order to pursue any career path in pharmacy practice. Thus, the standards are prerequisites for admission, continuation, and graduation from the SPHS. The program faculty will monitor the student's ability to meet these standards.

The SPHS will consider for admission any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform or to learn to perform the skills listed in this document. All applicants are held to the same academic and technical standards of admission and training, with reasonable accommodations as needed for students with disabilities. The SPHS reserves the right not to admit any applicant who cannot meet the Technical Standards set forth below with reasonable accommodations. Applicants are not required to disclose the nature of their disability(ies), if any, to the Admissions Committee. To matriculate into the Program, the applicant must sign the Technical Standards Certification Form documenting their ability to meet the standards. This form is provided prior to interviewing for the program. However, if a student cannot demonstrate the following skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request an appropriate accommodation. Any applicant with questions about these technical standards is strongly encouraged to discuss the issue with the Associate Director of Admissions for the SPHS prior to the interview process. If appropriate, and upon the request of the applicant/student, the school will consider technological and other facilitating mechanisms needed in order to train and function effectively as a pharmacist.

Candidates for the PharmD degree must be able to perform the essential functions in each of the following categories: observation; communication; sensory and motor coordination and function; conceptualization, integration and quantitative evaluation; and behavioral and social attributes. These are described in detail below:

Observation (functional use of vision and other sensory modalities)

- Ability to observe demonstrations and experiments in the sciences, including physiological and pharmacological demonstrations, medical illustrations, microbiological cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and normal or pathological tissues.
- Ability to use visual, somatic, and auditory cues to accurately observe and assess a patient's physical condition.



- Ability to receive visual information from the treatment environment, discriminate numbers and patterns associated with diagnostic and monitoring instruments, and competently use instruments for monitoring drug response.
- Ability to distinguish shapes, colors, markings, and other characteristics of small objects (eg. different dosage forms).
- Ability to observe activities of technical staff under a pharmacist's supervision.

Sensory and Motor Coordination (tactile and motor abilities):

- Ability to coordinate gross and fine muscular movements and the functional use of the senses of touch and vision reasonably required to perform pharmacy functions. These tasks include but are not limited to: the ability to compound, prepare, and administer prescription medications, run laboratory tests for therapeutic monitoring, use current technology for drug information evaluation, read EKGs, drug blood levels, and other laboratory results, and operate a computer and other electronic devices using the hands and fingers.
- Ability to maneuver in the pharmacy practice setting for general and emergency treatment of patients and not hinder the ability of co-workers to provide prompt care.
- Ability to maneuver in the patient care setting including the ability to maintain balance, orientation, mobility, and stamina while walking with a person in need of support or using a mobility device
- Ability to use motor function sufficient for using basic patient assessment skills such as palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- Ability to use motor function sufficient to accurately prepare appropriate emergency medication and sterile intravenous medications.

Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Evaluation:

- Ability to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize pertinent information to solve problems and calculate accurate doses, dilutions, and reconstitution of pharmaceutical products.
- Ability to understand basic scientific principles and methods for the cognitive application of information.
- Ability to comprehend spatial relationships and three-dimensional models.
- Ability to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, and use of computer technology.
- Ability to concentrate in the presence of distracting conditions.
- Ability to concentrate for prolonged periods of time.

Communication

- Ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients to elicit information from them and to provide information to patients and other health care professionals.
- Ability to comprehend written and oral communication in English to fulfill the routine duties and tasks of an intern/pharmacist.
- Ability to receive and interpret written communications in a timely manner in both the academic and clinical settings, including information presented on computer screens.



- Ability to receive and send verbal communication during life threatening situations within the acceptable norms of clinical settings, including responding to warnings and alarms, interpreting auscultation, and indications of other diagnostic equipment.
- Ability to effectively communicate with and supervise technical staff in accordance with State law.

Behavioral/Social Attributes:

- Ability to understand ethical issues related to the pharmaceutical profession and to adhere to all laws and standards as defined by the California State Board of Pharmacy.
- Ability to exercise sound judgment in an emergency situation.
- Ability to maintain a professional demeanor and to relate in a professional manner to patients and other health care professionals.
- Ability to accept feedback and respond with appropriate behavior or modification of behavior.
- Physical and emotional stamina to function in a competent manner in a setting that may involve heavy workloads and stressful situations.

Individuals who would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of others or who are currently impaired by alcohol or substance abuse are not considered suitable candidates for admission.