

NYU School of Medicine Student Handbook

Technical, Non-Academic Standards

All candidates for the Doctor of Medicine degree must possess the physical and mental skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete the NYU School of Medicine curriculum. To achieve the optimal educational experience, students are required to participate in all phases of our training program. The study of medicine is not a pure intellectual exercise but rather a specific set of minimum physical, mental, emotional, social abilities and professionalism that are needed to be a successful student and physician. To successfully complete our medical school curriculum students must possess all of the abilities and characteristics listed in the following six categories:

- behavioral and social attributes
- communication
- ethics and professionalism
- intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities
- motor
- observation

These abilities and characteristics are defined as technical standards, which, in conjunction with academic standards established by the faculty, are requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation.

The NYU School of Medicine will consider for admission any applicant who meets its academic and non-academic criteria and who demonstrates the ability to perform the skills listed in this document, with or without reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act. An accommodation is not reasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of self and/or others, if making it requires a substantial modification in an essential element of the curriculum, if it lowers academic standards, or if it poses an undue administrative or financial burden.

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES: Candidates must demonstrate the maturity and emotional stability required for full use of their intellectual abilities. They must accept responsibility for learning, exercising good judgment, and promptly completing all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of 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 healthcare personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. They must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and long work hours, to function effectively under stress, and to display flexibility and adaptability to changing environments. Candidates must be able to

contribute to a collaborative, constructive learning environment; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for their actions.

COMMUNICATION: Candidates must be able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, and efficiently speak, write, hear, read, and use technology to communicate with patients, families, and members of the health care team. Candidates must be able to record information accurately and clearly. They must have the capacity for comfortable verbal and non-verbal communication and interpersonal skills, to enable effective caregiving of patients and collaboration within a multidisciplinary team. Candidates must also communicate effectively in English with other health care professionals in a variety of patient settings.

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM: Candidates must care for all individuals in a respectful and effective manner regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other protected status. They must maintain ethical and moral behavior consistent with professional standards for interactions with students, faculty, staff, patients, and the public. They must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within both the law and ethical standards of the medical profession. Professionalism, compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all qualities that are expected throughout the educational processes.

INTELLECTUAL – CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE, AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES: Candidates must have sufficient cognitive abilities to effectively learn, retrieve, assimilate, analyze, sequence, and organize complex details. Candidates must be able to adapt to multiple learning techniques and environments including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group instruction, team and collaborative activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, self-assessment, peer review, and use of computer technology.

MOTOR: Candidates' motor and sensory functions must be sufficient to diagnose and deliver effective patient care by consistently, quickly, and accurately integrating all data gathered through whatever sense(s) employed. Candidates must be able to respond in emergency situations to provide the level of care reasonably required of physicians. Candidates must adhere to universal precaution measures and meet safety standards applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings and other clinical activities.

OBSERVATION: Candidates must be able to observe required demonstrations and experiments including, but not limited to, anatomic dissection, microscopic studies, and patient demonstrations. They must be able to assess patients and evaluate findings accurately. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent thereof.

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