Technical Standards for Admission and Graduation

The M.D. degree is a broad undifferentiated degree attesting to general knowledge in all fields of medicine and the basic skills required for the practice of medicine. Technical standards, distinguished from academic standards for admission to the college, consist of the minimum physical, cognitive, and emotional requirements to provide reasonable assurance that students can complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of medical training. The college should do everything reasonable to ensure that its graduates become fully competent physicians by completing graduate medical education, passing licensing exams, and obtaining medical licenses.

The college has an ethical responsibility for the safety of patients with whom the students will come into contact both before and after graduation. Therefore, patient safety is a major factor in establishing requirements for physical, cognitive, and emotional capabilities of applicants for admission and graduation.

All students of medicine must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities necessary to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve levels of competence required by the faculty. An avowed intention to practice only a narrow part of clinical medicine does not alter the requirement that all students take the full curriculum.

Technical standards prescribed here are a prerequisite for admission to and for graduation from the Medical College of Wisconsin. All applicants and graduates must meet all prescribed technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations.

I. PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: After reasonable training and experience, the candidate must be capable of performing anatomic dissections of the human cadaver; be able to observe demonstrations and be capable of performing experiments to include, but not be limited to, operations on living animals (in courses such as Physiology); be capable of the study of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states including the manipulations (i.e., streaking a bacterial plate and transferring bacteria from one test to another in an aseptic manner) necessary for such studies. Observation of gross and microscopic structures necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision and touch and is enhanced by the functional sense of smell.

After reasonable training and experience, the candidate must be capable of performing a complete physical examination, including observation, palpation and percussion and auscultation. The candidate must be capable of using instruments, such as but not limited to, a stethoscope, an opthalmoscope, an otoscope, and a sphygmomanometer. The candidate must be capable of performing clinical procedures such as, but not limited to, the following: pelvic examination, digital rectal examination, drawing blood from veins and arteries and giving intravenous injections, basic cardiopulmonary life support, spinal puncture, and simple obstetrical procedures. The candidate must be capable of performing basic laboratory tests, using a calculator and a computer, reading an EKG, and interpreting some common imaging tests. The applicant must be able to move in the clinical setting so as to act quickly in emergencies.
II. **COMMUNICATION**: A candidate must be able to communicate in English with, to receive communication from, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal affective and gestural communication. These communication skills also must enable the candidate to obtain a medical history in a timely fashion from a wide variety of patients, and to communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with all members of the health care team, other professionals, patients, and their families. Communication includes speech and writing. Also, the candidate must be able to comprehend written material sufficiently well to understand accurately common medical records, laboratory reports, and pharmacological prescriptions.

III. **INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES**: A candidate must have sufficient cognitive (mental) capacities to assimilate the technically detailed and complex information presented in formal lectures, small group discussions, and individual teaching settings and in clinical settings. A candidate must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize information across modalities, appreciate three-dimensional spatial relationships among structures and logical sequential relationships among events, and form and test hypotheses in order to enable effective and timely problem solving in diagnosis and treatment of patients.

IV. **BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES**: A candidate must possess the emotional health, maturity and self-discipline required for full use of one's intellectual and judgmental ability and for successful participation in and completion of the program. Certain characteristics are especially important in the clinical years. These include attendance, integrity, honesty, conscientiousness in work, good knowledge of patients, and teamwork. The candidate or student must accept responsibility for learning, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities necessary for sensitive and effective relationships with patients and others. The candidate must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, to function effectively under stress, to adapt to changing environments, and to display flexibility.

V. **SAFETY**: The Medical College of Wisconsin has a responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of patients and others. Should an applicant or student have a condition that would place patients or others at significant risk, that condition may be the basis for denial of admission or expulsion from school.

VI. **EVALUATION**: The Medical College of Wisconsin may require that an applicant or student undergo an occupational skills evaluation at the school’s expense for the purpose of determining whether the applicant or student meets these technical standards.

The Medical College of Wisconsin does not discriminate against otherwise qualified individuals who apply for admission to the M.D. degree program or who are enrolled as medical students. The designated disabilities coordinator with regard to applicants with disabilities is the Director of Admissions. The designated disabilities coordinator for enrolled medical students with disabilities is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

Approved by Admissions Committee March 9, 1995
Approved by Curriculum and Evaluation Committee March 20, 1995
Approved by Academic Standing Committee May 15, 1995
Approved by Faculty Assembly May 17, 1995
Approved by Executive Committee of the Faculty June 13, 1995