

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
POLICY ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSIONS,
CONTINUATION, AND GRADUATION**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy assures equal access to educational opportunities for qualified persons with disabilities.

Applicants for admission to the College of Pharmacy and current students must demonstrate the ability to complete, with or without reasonable accommodations, the entire curriculum and achieve the Pharm.D. degree.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE PHARM.D. PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The curriculum requires demonstrated proficiency in a variety of cognitive, problem-solving, communicative and interpersonal skills. To achieve these proficiencies, the Pharm.D. Program requires that each student be able to meet the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodation. The technical standards are requirements for matriculation, course completion and graduation. The decision to request a reasonable accommodation to assist the student in meeting the technical standards is the student's, as is the responsibility to notify the College of Pharmacy if the student is unable to meet the technical standards (see Procedure for Administering the Technical Standards for Admission, Continuance, and Graduation).

1. Communication:

- A. Verbal and nonverbal: Pharm.D. students must be able to impart complex information in the English language so that others can understand it. The student must be able to elicit information from patients, patients' family members, the student's supervisors and peers. The students must note and respond to factual information provided by others as well as to cues of mood, temperament, and social responses. The student must be aware of and responsive to cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication. Communication with patients and all members of the healthcare team must be accurate, sensitive, effective, efficient and confidential. Communication must be timely and situationally appropriate. Students must be able to communicate with health care practitioners specifically in reviewing and recommending verbal and written drug therapy orders.
- B. Written: Pharm.D. students must be able to produce written materials that are constructed in a legible and organized fashion, using proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. This includes both handwriting and typing/word processing skills.
- C. Comprehension: Pharm.D. students must be able to comprehend and assimilate complex scientific and medical information in the English language from a variety of written sources including texts, journals, medical records, course syllabi, etc. In addition, the students must be able to acquire written information from a variety of sources including Medline, and other computer-search programs, the Internet, journal and text libraries, etc.

2. **Cognitive skills**

Pharm.D. students must be able to solve problems involving measurements, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis and have the mental capacity to assimilate and learn large volumes of complex information.

- a) **Problem solving:** Pharm D. students are required to be able to make appropriate clinical decisions and must be able to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a patient's history, physical findings and monitoring studies. Students must be able to use this information to develop and process a drug therapy and monitoring plan in an appropriate amount of time.
- b) **Judgement:** Pharm.D. students must demonstrate judgment in classroom, laboratory and clinical settings which shows an ability to make mature, sensitive and effective decisions in the following areas:
 1. Relationships with persons being served and designated family members or healthcare decision-makers. The students must demonstrate professional interactions in all situations.
 2. Relationships with supervisors and peers. When provided with constructive feedback from an instructor or supervisor, students will adapt behavior accordingly.
 3. Ability to determine effectiveness of therapeutic strategies and modify the therapy appropriately.

3. **Sensory skills**

Observation necessitates the functional use of vision and hearing. A student must be able to observe and hear lectures, demonstrations, experiments and practice-based activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to writing accurate prescription orders for drug therapy and evaluating visible and auditory patient signs and symptoms of drug actions. Students must be able to interpret clinical parameters for the purposes of monitoring drug therapy.

4. **Behavioral/Social Skills**

Pharm.D. students must exhibit appropriate professional attitudes and conduct during participation in the classroom, laboratory and pharmacy practice experiences. Students are required to utilize their intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities involved in pharmaceutical care of patients. Students must have the capacity to develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and healthcare professionals. They must be able to function effectively in situations of physical and emotional stress.

5. **Motor Skills**

Students must demonstrate sufficient motor function to execute all aspects of processing drug orders. These activities include, but are not limited, operating a computer, dispensing multiple types of dosage forms, preparing compounded drug formulations, safe and aseptic handling of sterile preparations and basic physical assessment skills.