

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

Because the MD degree signifies that the holder is a physician prepared for entry into the practice of medicine within postgraduate training programs, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge, skills, and ability to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

The mission of the Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota is to provide the opportunity for South Dakota residents to receive a quality, broad-based medical education with an emphasis on family practice. The curriculum is to be established to encourage graduates to serve people living in the medically underserved areas of South Dakota, and is to require excellence in the basic sciences and in all clinical disciplines.

Therefore, candidates for the MD degree from the Sanford School of Medicine must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. Diagnostic skills will also be lessened without functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste. Additionally, candidates must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature), sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) and sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. They must be able consistently, quickly and accurately to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

Such candidates for the MD degree must have abilities and skills of five varieties including: Observation; Communication; Motor; Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative abilities; and Behavioral and Social Attributes. Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain of these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation.

I. OBSERVATION:

The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to, physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, microscopic studies of microorganisms, and tissues of normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

II. COMMUNICATION:

A candidate must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communication. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

III. MOTOR:

Candidates must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate must be able to do basic laboratory tests, carry out diagnostic procedures and read EKGs and X-rays. A candidate must be able to

execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment, reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, suturing of simple wounds and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such action requires coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

IV. INTELLECTUAL, CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES:

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate must be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

V. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES:

A candidate must possess the emotional health 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. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

The Sanford School of Medicine reaffirms that no applicant will be excluded on the basis of sex, creed, race or national origin. Otherwise qualified applicants with a disability will be considered in relation to the guidelines listed above.