

East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine

Technical Standards for Admission, Matriculation and Continued Enrollment

Introduction

To facilitate the achievement of its mission of educating dentists who will serve the citizens of North Carolina, the School of Dental Medicine has established the following Technical Standards. This document delineates the non-academic qualifications that the faculty consider essential for successful completion of the educational objectives of the curriculum, in conjunction with the required academic and clinical achievements.

It is the responsibility of the School's admissions committees, exercising judgment on behalf of the faculty, to select candidates who have the ability to become highly competent practitioners.

Attitudinal, Interpersonal and Emotional Attributes

As an aspiring member of the dental profession, a dental student must subscribe to the same high ethical values, principles and ideals, as well as state and federal laws that govern the profession. A student must be able to interact with patients and colleagues with integrity, honesty and a willingness to put the needs of others first.

A student must be able to:

- Tolerate demanding workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients;
- Display compassion, integrity, and concern for others;
- Manage apprehensive patients presenting with a range of moods and behaviors in a tactful, congenial manner, so as not to alienate or antagonize them; and
- Adhere to the appropriate standards of professional conduct and ethical behavior.

Communication Skills

A student must be able to: communicate effectively and sensitively with patients in order to; convey or exchange information at a level allowing the development of a health history and identify problems presented. A student must be able to: explain alternative solutions and give directions during treatment and after treatment. Communication includes at a minimum, speaking, reading, and writing. Students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in spoken and written English with patients and with all members of the health care team.

A student must be able to:

- Speak intelligibly, understand spoken words, and observe patients by sight in order to elicit information, describe changes in appearance, and perceive changes in nonverbal communications;

- Obtain a health history and other pertinent information from patients;
- Review and complete appropriate health care records and documents and plans according to protocol, and in a complete and timely manner;
- Understand and apply clinical instructions given by others; and
- Communicate efficiently and effectively in oral and/or written form with patients, families of patients, and all members of the health care team, during both emergencies and non-emergency situations.

Observation Skills

A student must be able to acquire defined levels of required information and skills as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic, behavioral, and dental sciences. A student must be able to observe patients accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe and understand verbal as well as non-verbal communications when assessing a patient's oral and craniofacial conditions and providing treatment. Observation necessitates functional use of the sense of vision and other sensory modalities.

A student must be able to:

- Observe a patient accurately, at a distance, and close at hand, with or without standard instrumentation;
- Acquire information for written documents;
- Visualize information presented in images from paper, film, slides, computer displays, and video;
- Interpret radiographic or other digital images; and
- Perform visual and tactile dental examinations and treatment including use of visual acuity, accommodation, and vision to discern differences and variation in color, shape and general appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues, including variations in shade along the black-grey white scale.

Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function

A student must have sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment for patients. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements and equilibrium. A student must have functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

A student must be able to:

- Perform palpation and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers;
- Perform basic laboratory procedures and work with standard laboratory materials;
- Operate controls utilizing fine movements, operate high or low speed handpieces requiring controlled dental movements of less than 0.5 millimeter, and utilize hand instrumentation (including scalpels for surgical procedures);
- Reach and manipulate equipment to all positions in order to control the operating environment; and

- Execute motor movements required to provide general and emergency care in a timely and efficient manner, including activating the emergency medical system, performing Basic Life Support, administering appropriate emergency medical treatment Including CPR) and assisting attending with Advanced Life Support.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

A student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information from a wide variety of sources, utilizing an effective, efficient learning style. Problem solving, a critical skill demanded of oral health practitioners, requires all of these intellectual abilities. A student must be able to perform these problem solving skills in a timely fashion.

A student must be able to:

- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures; and
- Learn effectively through a variety of modalities, including but not limited to: classroom instruction, small group discussion, individual study of materials, preparation of written and oral reports, and use of digital technology.

Behavioral and Social

A student must possess the physiological and psychological stamina required for full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and treatment of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. A student must be able to interact with faculty and colleagues, use good judgment, and engage in the exchanging of ideas. A student must be able to accept suggestions and constructive criticism, and if necessary, respond by making appropriate behavioral or performance changes..

A student must be able to:

- Tolerate demanding workloads, adapt to changing environments, function effectively under stress, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients;
- Display compassion, integrity, and concern for others;
- Manage apprehensive patients presenting with a range of moods and behaviors in a tactful, congenial manner, so as not to alienate or antagonize them; and
- Adhere to the appropriate standards of professional conduct and ethical behavior.

Other Requirements

A student must comply with University and School of Dental Medicine immunization requirements.

Applicants and Enrolled Students with Disabilities

Admission to the School of Dental Medicine is open to all qualified individuals and complies with the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. §701 et seq.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.). Prospective or enrolled students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations should directly contact the East Carolina University Department for Disability Support Services.

Approved: ECU Office of Disability Support Services: September 13, 2010

Approved: ECU University Attorney: September 13, 2010

Revised and approved: ECU Office of Disability Support Services and ECU University Attorney:
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