



## **Technical Standards for Matriculation, Retention, and Graduation**

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The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine indicates the holder is a physician who is prepared to enter into supervised practice in a Graduate Medical Education Training Program. Therefore, all applicants and matriculated students possess certain essential abilities and characteristics required for completion of the D.O. degree that consist of certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and emotional characteristics to assure that candidates for admission, matriculation, and graduation are able to complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of medical training, with or without reasonable accommodations.

To be qualified for the D.O. degree, future training, and subsequent licensure, the candidate must demonstrate competency in five requisite areas: observation and sensory; communication; motor; intellectual-conceptual; and behavioral and social attributes. Students are required to demonstrate said competencies to provide safe and effective medical care in a wide variety of clinical environments.

Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to the admission and matriculation of qualified students and does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, gender, marital status, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, creed, or religion. Candidates with disabilities can request reasonable accommodations if needed to meet these technical standards by following the University policies and procedures and contacting the Office for Disability Services as outlined at the end of this document. A candidate must be able to perform these outlined technical standards in an independent manner.

National Board of Osteopathic Examiners technical requirements may have more stringent standards than outlined in this document.

Students who accept an offer of admission from BUCOM will be required to sign an affirmation regarding compliance with the technical standards. Should a student's ability to meet the technical standards change at any point in the academic program, it is his/her responsibility to report this to the BUCOM Director of Admission and Student Affairs.

### **Requisite Competency Areas**

#### **I. Observation and Sensory**

Candidates must be able to acquire a defined level of information in both the clinical and biomedical sciences. Candidates and students must be able to obtain information from demonstrations and experiments in the biomedical and basic sciences. Students must be

able to assess a patient and evaluate findings accurately. The observation and information acquisition noted above will require candidates to have functional use of visual, auditory and touch sensations or the functional equivalent.

## **II. Communication**

A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, detect and describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; perceive nonverbal communications; and establish a therapeutic relationship. A candidate must be able to respectfully communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients, their families, faculty, peers and all other members of the health care team. Communication includes speech, reading and writing or the functional equivalent.

## **III. Motor**

Candidates must, after a reasonable period of training, possess the capacity to perform physical examinations and diagnostic maneuvers. They must be able to respond to clinical situations in a timely manner and provide general and emergency care. These activities require some physical mobility, coordination of both gross and fine motor neuromuscular function and balance and equilibrium. Such actions require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision or the functional equivalent.

## **IV. Intellectual - Conceptual**

Candidates must possess proficient measurement, calculation, reasoning, and analysis skills. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates and students must be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand and be able to work within the spatial relationships of structures. They must have the intellectual capability to increase their fund of information and knowledge base through various media as well as from course materials, scheduled conferences, lectures, rounds, current literature and journals; and to make appropriate evaluations of clinical circumstances. Analytical problem-solving skills are critical in medicine and candidates must be able to perform in a timely manner, tasks utilizing such skills. The practice of medicine infers the protection and safety of patients, not just the ability to pass preparatory examinations. Physicians are responsible for those who place themselves into their care and must demonstrate the ability to rapidly process information, make decisions, and perform the appropriate interventions. Certain personal characteristics are expected of a physician. These include integrity, compassion, interpersonal skills, and motivation.

## **V. Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Students must exercise good judgment and act professionally, complete all responsibilities promptly and effectively, attend to the diagnosis and care of patients while maintaining mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Students must be able to function effectively under stressful conditions, adapt to changing environments, and function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in the clinical care of patients. Compassion, integrity, empathy, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the educational process. Candidates and students must display flexibility and a spirit of cooperation with faculty, classmates, and colleagues. Candidates must be able to serve (in an appropriate manner), all persons in need of assistance, regardless of the person's age, class, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation (or lack thereof), gender identification, ability, sexual orientation, and value system.

### **Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other applicable laws, Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine provides reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified students with verified disabilities. An accommodation will not be provided if it would result in the fundamental alteration of the college's programs, services or activities, or if it would impose undue financial or administrative burdens on the University.

Additional information about BUCOM Office of Disability Services may be found at <https://www.baptistu.edu>. If student circumstances should change related to these technical standards, the student will promptly notify the Office of Student Affairs at the BUCOM and/or the Office of Disability Services if reasonable accommodations are required at any point.