



Technical Standards

Within the role of a pharmacist, an individual will face a variety of physical, mental, and emotional requirements. Pharmacists must also be prepared to utilize principles of evidence-based medicine and perform all elements of the [Pharmacists' Patient Care Process](#) (PPCP): collect; assess; plan; implement; and follow-up (monitor and evaluate). To fulfill the ethical responsibility of maintaining patient safety during all interactions with students and graduates, candidates and students at the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy (UCSOP) must review the following Technical Standards to determine their ability and compatibility with the requirements for the profession.

These minimum Technical Standards establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of an entry-level pharmacist. The standards encompass five areas: 1) observation; 2) communication; 3) sensory and motor function; 4) intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; and 5) behavioral and social attributes. In the event a candidate or student is unable to fulfill these technical standards (each of which is essential to the candidate's or student's functioning as a pharmacist) prior to or any time after admission, **with or without reasonable accommodation** ([see official UC ADA Statement in the Student Handbook](#)), the student will not be allowed to enter or progress within the program.

Observation

1. Candidates and students must be able to observe and participate in demonstrations, experiments, discussions, and activities in the basic and clinical sciences, including laboratory exercises and demonstrations made in the classroom using standardized and simulated patient-models.
2. Candidates and students must be able to observe a patient at a distance and up close to accurately identify and report pertinent findings.

Communication

1. Candidates and students must possess the ability to read and comprehend written English at a level sufficient to adequately evaluate technical materials, clinical guidelines, biomedical literature, medical documentation and orders, prescriptions, computer-generated labels, prescription and nonprescription packaging, and other forms of medical information and communications.
2. Candidates and students are expected to be able to effectively communicate all elements of the PPCP and to other healthcare professionals, patients, or the community, in the English language and with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency.

3. Candidates and students must be able to accurately document information in a thorough and timely manner within the appropriate platform. Basic computer literacy and application proficiency are required to effectively and efficiently communicate information via electronic platforms.

Sensory and Motor Function

1. Candidates and students must be able to learn and perform basic physical assessment, point-of-care testing, sterile and non-sterile compounding techniques, medication dispensing, and therapeutic procedures within the pharmacist scope of practice, such as administering certain medications and immunizations, and other components of the PPCP.
2. Candidates and students must be able to perform activities associated with providing general and emergency care for patients, such as basic life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
3. Candidates and students must have the ability to legally operate a motor vehicle or other appropriate mode of transportation, or otherwise secure reliable transportation to mandatory off-campus activities, such as experiential rotations.
4. Candidates and students must adhere to universal precaution measures and meet safety standards applicable to laboratory and clinical settings.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

1. Candidates and students must be able to learn to process, memorize, quantify, calculate, analyze, interpret, integrate, synthesize, apply, problem-solve, and reach clinical judgments accurately and efficiently.
2. Candidates and students must have effective learning techniques and habits to ensure content mastery, as well as the ability to learn through a variety of modalities, including but not limited to, classroom instructions, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of projects, and use of digital technology.
3. Candidates and students must be able to learn and to demonstrate the ability to recognize limitations in their own knowledge, skills, and abilities and seek appropriate assistance with their identified limitations.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

1. Candidates and students must be able to work collaboratively with their classmates to sustain a safe learning environment and with their colleagues and patients to develop collaborative professional relationships.
2. Candidates and students must demonstrate compassion, empathy, honesty, integrity, nondiscrimination, interpersonal skills, and motivation to excel in the practice of pharmacy.
3. Candidates and students must respect and protect the confidentiality of sensitive health information, as well as the autonomy and dignity of patients.

4. Candidates and students must possess the endurance to tolerate physically, mentally, and emotionally taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. At times this may require working for extended periods of time or with rotation schedules.
5. Candidates and students must be able to employ the full use of their intellectual abilities, exercise of good judgment, and prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations.
6. Candidates and students must be able to adapt to changing environments and to display flexibility in the face of uncertainties inherent in the training process and the healthcare field.
7. Candidates and students are expected to willingly accept and invite constructive feedback and, if necessary, subsequently adopt appropriate modifications in their behavior.
8. Candidates and students must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of pharmacy and function within the guidelines established by the law and by the ethical standards of the pharmacy profession.
9. Candidates and students who are currently impaired by alcohol or other substances or would constitute a direct threat to the health and safety of others are not considered suitable for admission, progression, or graduation.

ADA Statement

This University is committed to equal opportunity and access for people with disabilities. In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the West Virginia Human Rights Act (WVHRA), the University does not exclude otherwise qualified persons with disabilities from participating in University programs and activities.

The ADA and the WVHRA protect “people with disabilities,” and define a person as disabled if he or she:

- has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one of life’s major activities, such as walking, hearing, etc., or
- has a record of history of such an impairment, or
- is regarded as having such impairment

In addition, a person who is associated with someone with a disability is protected from employment discrimination based on unwarranted assumptions (e.g., that the person will have to miss work to care for a disabled individual).

Disability and Accessibility Coordinator Contact Information:

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