

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM
TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION

I. **Technical Standards**

The graduate student in biomedical sciences must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of academic and research situations and function effectively in classroom and laboratory and clinical settings.. In order to carry out the activities described below, biomedical science students must be able to consistently, quickly and accurately integrate all information received, and they must have the ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

A student must have abilities and skills of five varieties, including: observation; communication; motor; conceptual, integrative and quantitative; behavioral and social. Technological compensation can be made for handicaps in some of these areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

- A. **Observation and Sensory Skills**: Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic sciences. They must be able to observe demonstrations accurately for proper understanding of the science content.
- B. **Communication Skills**: Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with faculty, fellow students, research subjects and others. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. They must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the research and/or health care team.
- C. **Motor Skills**: Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function and strength and mobility to execute movements required to perform laboratory exercises.
- D. **Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Skills**: These skills include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of scientists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates and students should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

- E. **Behavioral and Social Skills:** Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to classwork, laboratory exercises and research. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the scientific environment. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

II. **Professional Standards**

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine maintains a biomedical science curriculum that stresses clinical applications of biomedical concepts. As part of this training, students may participate in activities involving patients and research subjects. Therefore, it is mandatory that all matriculating students understand and accept these professional responsibilities including fulfilling professional responsibilities to peers, faculty and research subjects, demonstrating professional demeanor at all times and adhering to appropriate dress standards.

PCOM recognizes that there may be gender, religious and/or ethnic concerns of individual students. However, successful completion of the curriculum requires that each student demonstrate proficiency and professionalism with all aspects of biomedical science instruction.

Reasonable Accommodation for Physical and Learning Disabilities and Documentation Requirements

Reasonable accommodation for physical and/or learning disabilities will be made when complete supporting documentation has been presented. In determining what constitutes a reasonable accommodation, the College will consider the logistics and costs of the requested accommodation and the impact on the educational program.

PCOM will evaluate each situation on an individual basis. Once accepted for admission, and prior to matriculation, students must take the responsibility for providing appropriate documentation of their need for accommodation. The documentation must clearly identify the disability and provide specific information on the manifestations of the disability and any accommodations needed to remediate those manifestations. Documentation must strictly adhere to the Guidelines for Requesting a Disability Accommodation.

The Asst. Dean for Student Affairs will review each accommodation request, and schedule a meeting to discuss the College's response to the request

The College realizes that emergencies may occur after matriculation, and will address these concerns as the need arises.