TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS

Approval date:    May 2013
Next Scheduled review:   May 2014

POLICY STATEMENT:

The goal of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, College of Allied Health Sciences (CARS) is to prepare students for the practice of the professions of audiology, cytotechnology, dental hygiene, health informatics and information management, histotechnology, medical technology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and speech language pathology. This includes undergraduate education and graduate education, where applicable. Modern allied health education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of essential skills and functions and professional attitudes and behavior. The faculty of the College of Allied Health Sciences have a responsibility to graduate practitioners and graduate students who are able to implement the practices in their respective fields of study; therefore, admission to educational programs in the College is offered only to those who present the highest qualifications for education and training in the art and science of the respective allied health professions.

Applicants to programs of the College must possess the following general qualities: critical thinking, sound judgment, emotional stability and maturity, empathy, physical and mental stamina, and the ability to learn and function in a wide variety of didactic and clinical settings. Graduates of the College must have the minimal skills, essential functions and knowledge to function in a broad variety of clinical settings, while rendering a wide spectrum of healthcare services.

The faculty of the CAHS has a responsibility for the welfare of the patients treated or otherwise affected by students enrolled in the College as well as for the educational welfare of its students relative to the educational programs of the College. In addition to preparing students to perform their professional responsibilities according to the best practices available in the field, the faculty must also ensure that the safety and well-being of patients with whom students interact be maintained at all times. Additionally, faculty has the responsibility to ensure the educational welfare of all students. In order to fulfill this responsibility the Committees on Admissions or the various professional programs of the College maintain that certain minimal technical standards must be present in applicants to the various educational programs of the College. Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree, as well as those enrolled in any graduate education programs of the College, must meet the technical standards in the areas of motor skills; sensory/observational skills; communication skills; intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; as well as behavioral social skills and professionalism.
The College of Allied Health Sciences is committed to equal access for all qualified students and as such has outlined both general and specific technical standards essential to the safety and well-being of patients and the academic integrity of the program. Otherwise qualified candidates/students with an appropriately documented disability should contact the Office of Disability Services in Student Academic Support Services for help with accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act. Services and accommodations for students with disabilities are coordinated through the office of Student Academic Support Services at 8 S. Dunlap, Room BB9, General Education Building. For additional information and assistance in requesting accommodations please refer to the following website: http://www.uthsc.edu/sass/services.php.