

Technical Standards: DDS Program

As a health care specialty, primarily defined by anatomical boundaries, the practice of dentistry has unique requirements in that the accumulation of scientific knowledge must be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of essential diagnostic and clinical skills, management functions, and professional attitudes, ethics and behaviors. Such requirements are requisite to the provision of safe and effective management of the hard and soft tissue of the oral cavity and adjacent anatomical areas, including the teeth, jaws, and surrounding soft tissues.

The faculty of the College of Dentistry has a responsibility to graduate the best possible dental practitioners, residents, and graduate students; thus admission to educational programs in the College of Dentistry is offered only to those who present the highest qualifications for education and training in the art and science of dentistry. Applicants to the DDS program must possess the following general qualities: critical thinking, sound judgment, emotional stability and maturity, empathy, physical and mental stamina. Applicants must possess the ability to acquire knowledge, surgical skills and technical functions and use such knowledge, skills, and functions in a wide variety of didactic, laboratory, and clinical settings at a level of competency defined by the college.

The faculty of the College of Dentistry has a responsibility for the welfare of the patients treated under the aegis of the college and the educational welfare of its students relative to the educational programs of the college. The DDS Admissions Committee maintains that certain minimal technical standards must be present in applicants to the DDS program. A candidate for the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, as well as dentists in the various advanced education programs of the college, must have the following essentials: fine motor skills; sensory/observational skills; communication skills; intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; behavioral/social skills and professionalism.

Motor Skills

Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have sufficient motor function to perform and participate in didactic, pre-clinical technique, laboratory, clinical procedures and exercises at a level of competency defined by the college. At a minimum, this includes coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and touch. Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have manual dexterity, including full functioning wrists, hands, fingers, and arms.

Sensory/Observational Skills

Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have sufficient sensory/observational skills to perform and participate in didactic, preclinical technique, laboratory, clinical procedures and exercises at a level of competency defined by the college. At a minimum, this includes the ability to participate in didactic, preclinical technique and laboratory exercises, interact with patients in terms of observation and data gathering. Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have the functional use of visual and other sensory modalities.

Communication Skills

Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have sufficient communication skills to

perform and participate in didactic, pre-clinical technique, laboratory and clinical procedures at a level of competency defined by the college. At a minimum, this includes the ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken English in classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.

Intellectual/Conceptual, Integrative, and Qualitative Skills

Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have sufficient intellectual/conceptual, integrative, and qualitative skills to perform didactic, pre-clinical technique, laboratory, and clinical procedures and exercises at a level of competency defined by the college. At a minimum, this includes the ability to manage data, solve problems, and make rational decisions regarding patient care in a timely manner.

Behavioral/Social Skills and Professionalism

Candidates for admission to the DDS program must have sufficient behavioral/social skills and professionalism to perform didactic, preclinical technique, laboratory, and clinical procedures at a level of competency defined by the college. At a minimum, this includes the attributes of integrity, empathy, communication, and motivation, emotional maturity and stability, sound judgment, punctuality, and interpersonal skills. For this reason, candidates for admission to the DDS program must be able to: adapt to changing conditions, cope with stress, delegate responsibilities, meet deadlines and possess effective time management skills in order to function as part of a dental health care team.

Summary

In summary, the faculty of the College of Dentistry prepares students for the comprehensive practice of dentistry. The Committee on Admissions for the DDS program, in accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (PL101-336), has established the aforementioned essential functions of students in the DDS program offered by the College of Dentistry.

The DDS Admissions Committee will consider for admission applicants who demonstrate the ability to perform, or to learn to perform, the essential skills listed in this document. The college will strive to see that students or dentists with impaired intellectual, physical, or emotional functions do not place patients in jeopardy. Students will be judged not only on their scholastic accomplishments, but also on their physical and emotional capacities to meet the full requirements of the college's curriculum and to graduate as skilled and effective dental practitioners.

Upon admission, a student who discloses a properly certified disability will receive reasonable accommodation but must be able to perform the essential functions of the curriculum, as described in this document, either with or without reasonable accommodation. Applicants verify in writing that they are able to meet these technical and performance standards with or without accommodation and are instructed to contact the Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion Office, GEB, room BB9, for questions and assistance. Determination of eligibility and recommendations of accommodations must be made by Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion <http://www.uthsc.edu/sassi/>.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
TECHNICAL STANDARDS

I have carefully read and understand the technical standards for admission to the College of Dentistry and to the DDS Program. My signature below indicates my understanding and the fact that I believe myself to be capable of fulfilling these technical standards (either with or without reasonable accommodations).

Print your name

Signature

Date