

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The Technical Standards for Admission, Retention and Graduation

The educational objective of the entry level Pharm.D. Degree Program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is to prepare students for the practice of pharmacy. Students admitted to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences must have the intellectual, emotional and physical abilities, with reasonable accommodations as needed for those with disabilities, to acquire the knowledge, behaviors, clinical and technical skills that they will need to successfully complete the curriculum in order to pursue any pathway of pharmacy practice. The ability, with reasonable accommodations as needed for those with disabilities, to meet the technical standards essential for the fulfillment of the requirements for the Pharm.D. degree and the educational objectives established by the faculty are evaluated in all candidates for admission and graduation.

The technical standards outlined below (“Technical Standards”), in conjunction with established academic standards, are followed by the Admissions Committee to select students who possess the intelligence, integrity, physical, and personal as well as emotional characteristics that are necessary to become an effective pharmacist.

The academic and technical standards established by the faculty require that all students accepted by the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences possess the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities that insure that they will be able to complete all aspects of the curriculum.

All applicants are held to the same academic and technical standards of admission and training, with reasonable accommodations as needed for students with disabilities.

Although the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences will engage in an interactive process with applicants with disabilities, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences reserves the right not to admit any applicant who, upon completion of the interactive process, cannot meet the Technical Standards set forth below, with reasonable accommodations.

Additional, those individuals who would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of others are not considered suitable candidates for admission.

Technical Standards:

The awarding of the Pharm.D. degree signifies that the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of pharmacy. It follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to practice and function in a wide variety of settings and situations. Students for the Pharm.D. degree must be able to perform specific essential functions that the faculty deem requisite for the practice of pharmacy. These functions fall into several broad categories, including: observation; communication; motor; conceptual, integrative and quantitative; and behavioral and social. Candidates must also have the physical and emotional stamina to function in a competent manner in a setting that may involve heavy workloads, stressful situations and be able to adapt to an environment, which may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has determined that those individuals who are currently impaired by alcohol or substance abuse cannot meet the Technical Standards.

Observation: Students must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic and pharmaceutical sciences, medical illustrations and models, microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. They must be able to directly and accurately see a patient's physical condition, must be able to obtain a history and perform appropriate physical assessments and to correctly integrate the information derived from these observations to develop an accurate plan. They must be able to prepare medications for dispensing to patients and observe the activities of technical staff operating under their supervision in accordance with State law. These skills require the functional use of vision, and somatic sensation.

Communication: Students must be able to communicate with, understand and observe patients in a clinical setting. They must be able to record information accurately and clearly, communicate fluently in and understand the English language, and communicate effectively with sensitivity to patients. The student must be capable of responsive empathetic listening to establish rapport in a way that promotes openness on issues of concern and shows sensitivity to potential cultural differences. Students must also be able to communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team in oral and written form, and in patient care settings in which decisions based upon those communications may be made rapidly, in which time available is limited. They must be able to effectively communicate with and supervise technical support staff.

Motor: Students must possess the motor function sufficient to accurately compound and prepare prescription products for dispensing to patients. They must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients using basic patient assessment skills such as palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers. They must possess the motor function sufficient to perform basic laboratory tests such as glucose monitoring or venipuncture for laboratory testing needed for therapeutic monitoring and they must be able to operate under a laminar airflow hood for sterile compounding. They must be able to use computer-based information systems.

Interpretative, Conceptual and Quantitative: Students must have effective and efficient learning techniques and habits that allow mastery of the pharmacy curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, and use of computer technology. They must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. They must also be able to comprehend spatial relationships and three-dimensional models.

Behavioral, Ethical and Social Attributes: 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. The College has the responsibility to the public to assure that its graduates will be fully competent pharmacists who adhere to the American Pharmacists Association's Code of Ethics. Students must be able to relate to patients and their families, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team with courtesy, maturity, and respect for the dignity of individuals. This requires that they place the welfare of their patients foremost, and demonstrate honesty, integrity, dedication, compassion and nondiscrimination in the care of their patients. They must at all times demonstrate the emotional stability to be able to exercise good judgment, and carry out prompt completion of all of the responsibilities attendant to the care of their patients in a sensitive and effective manner. This sensitivity includes self-examination of personal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes in order to avoid potential negative impacts on relationships and patient care. Students must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and professional responsibility to their patients, and to learn to function in an environment of uncertainty, in which changes may occur rapidly and without warning. All of these personal qualities will be assessed during the admissions and educational process.

Students must be able to meet the State Board of Pharmacy Licensing requirements to obtain a valid Texas Intern License, which is required to complete off-campus internship courses. Inability to obtain a Texas Intern License may prevent completion of off-campus internships and prevent a student from continuing in the program and completing the requirements for graduation.

All standards pertaining to on-campus coursework also applies to all off-campus practicum internships. In addition, practicum sites will have their own requirements. Inability to attain a practicum placement or to satisfactorily complete a practicum experience may result in removal from the Pharm. D. Program.