

Technical Standards

Technical Standards for Admission, Promotion, and Graduation

The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine maintains a steadfast commitment to developing highly skilled and compassionate physicians through a comprehensive and rigorous educational program. In support of this mission, the following technical standards establish essential requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. Throughout this document, the term "candidate" refers to both prospective applicants seeking admission and currently enrolled medical students pursuing retention, promotion, or graduation. These standards may be satisfied with or without reasonable accommodations. Candidates with disabilities are strongly encouraged to contact UMKC Roo Wellness – Student Accessibility Services at the earliest opportunity during the application process to initiate a dialogue regarding necessary accommodations.

Learning Capabilities and Educational Participation

Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in learning through diverse instructional modalities essential to medical education. These modalities encompass traditional classroom instruction, laboratory work including cadaver dissection, physical demonstrations, small-group and collaborative team activities, independent study, report preparation and presentation, and computer technology utilization. This multifaceted pedagogical approach ensures the development of comprehensive medical knowledge and practical clinical skills. Active participation in laboratory sessions and small-group activities with peers constitutes an integral component of the educational objectives. Candidates must attend all School of Medicine experiences as required at designated times and acquire fundamental medical knowledge through various instructional formats, including skills laboratories, team-based collaborative activities, individual study, computer technology applications, and the preparation and delivery of presentations before diverse audiences including peers, simulated patients, faculty, and staff.

Cognitive and Analytical Abilities

Candidates must possess the cognitive capabilities necessary to effectively interpret, assimilate, and comprehend the complex information required throughout the medical school curriculum. This includes the capacity to understand three-dimensional and spatial relationships of anatomical structures, synthesize information obtained through both in-person and remote technology platforms, interpret causal connections, and formulate accurate, evidence-based conclusions from available data. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to develop hypotheses, investigate potential outcomes, and reach appropriate clinical conclusions. Additionally, they must accurately interpret diagnostic representations of patients' physiological data. Given that preclinical courses prepare students for clinical practice and medical board examinations, candidates must possess appropriate sensory and motor functions to read, comprehend, and complete all preclinical assignments and assessments efficiently as essential preparation for clinical decision-making.

Clinical Competencies and Patient Care

In clinical settings, candidates must demonstrate the ability to conduct comprehensive routine physical examinations and perform diagnostic procedures to develop accurate and thorough assessments of patients' health, behavioral, and medical status. They must be capable of providing or directing general patient care and emergency treatment while responding to urgent situations in a timely and effective manner. Strict adherence to applicable safety standards and universal precaution procedures is mandatory. Candidates must exercise sound clinical judgment, complete all responsibilities related to patient diagnosis and care promptly, and establish mature, sensitive, and effective therapeutic relationships with patients.

Professional Competencies and Interpersonal Skills

The competencies necessary to achieve clinical excellence include managing substantial workloads effectively, functioning productively under stress, adapting to dynamic environments, demonstrating flexibility, and working effectively despite the inherent uncertainties characteristic of clinical practice. Candidates are expected to exemplify professionalism, personal accountability, compassion, integrity, and concern for others throughout their medical education and practice. Essential interpersonal skills include the ability to accept and apply constructive feedback, respect professional boundaries, and provide respectful and effective care to all individuals regardless of sex, age, race, ancestry, color, protected veteran status, religion, disability, or any other legally protected characteristic. Candidates must understand and operate within the legal and ethical frameworks governing medical practice, consistently demonstrating ethical and moral behaviors befitting the physician's role in all interactions with patients, faculty, staff, students, and the general public. Throughout the educational process, all candidates are expected to maintain sustained interest and motivation in their medical education and continued professional development.

Accommodation Requests and Review Process

Admitted candidates who request accommodations will undergo individual review on a case-by-case basis, with complete and careful consideration of each candidate's skills, experiences, and attributes through an interactive process involving the candidate, the School of Medicine (as applicable), and Student Accessibility Services. While each accommodation request receives individual consideration, all candidates must be able to perform these technical standards and complete each task required by the School of Medicine curriculum with or without reasonable accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be reasonable, must not cause fundamental alterations to the medical education program, must remain consistent with the academic standards of the School of Medicine, must not pose threats to the health or safety of the individual or others, and must not create undue burden for the institution. All candidates must demonstrate the ability to achieve these technical standards in a reasonably independent manner. Except in exceptionally rare circumstances, the use of surrogates to perform any of the technical standards described herein will be considered an unreasonable accommodation method.

In accordance with University of Missouri policies, which incorporate applicable federal, state, and local laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, the School of Medicine does not discriminate in admissions or educational programs against any individual on the basis of disability.

Candidate Certification Statement

I have read and understand the aforementioned technical standards, and I hereby certify that I believe I am able to meet these requirements, either with or without reasonable accommodation, should I become a medical student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. I acknowledge that should a change occur in my ability to perform these technical standards, I may be subject to dismissal from the School of Medicine following established UMKC School of Medicine procedures for such dismissal.

Note: Candidates who wish to request accommodations must contact UMKC Student Accessibility Services and are encouraged to do so prior to acceptance by the School of Medicine or as soon as possible following acceptance. It remains the candidate's responsibility to request an accommodation, provide the necessary documentation to establish the nature and extent of any disability and resulting functional limitations, and engage in the interactive process.

