

KU Doctor of Medicine Technical Standards

In addition to proven academic ability and other relevant personal characteristics, a doctor of medicine degree candidate must possess and be able to demonstrate the skills, attributes, and qualities defined in the CMHS Technical Standards, without undue dependence on technology or intermediaries to a degree that compromises independent judgment. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable in many clinical situations because that would require that a student's judgment be mediated or interpreted by someone else's power of selection and observation. Students with disabilities who may require an accommodation to meet technical standards are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation in accordance with CMHS and KU policies.

Candidates for the MD degree must be able to fully and promptly perform the essential functions in each of the following five categories:

1. **Observation.** A candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, physiological and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscope studies of microorganisms, tissues in normal and pathologic states, and read EKGs and radiographic imaging studies. A candidate must be able to accurately observe a patient from a distance and at close range, obtain a medical history directly from the patient, and directly observe a patient's medical condition. Observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision and sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.
2. **Communication.** A candidate must be able to elicit information from patients, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with health professionals, teachers, staff, and peers in settings where communication is typically oral or written, in both immediate and recorded modes, or when the time span available for communication is limited.
3. **Motor.** Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.), and carry out diagnostic procedures (thoracentesis, paracentesis, etc.). A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous fluids and medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative.** A candidate must be able to acquire, assimilate, interpret, integrate, and apply information from direct observation and oral communication, written messages, imaging studies, pathologic microscopic images, electrocardiograms, and other media. A candidate must also be able to comprehend three-

dimensional and spatial relationships and continually exercise the skills of inquiry and intellectual advancement in the profession.

5. **Behavioral/Social.** A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are assessed during the admissions and education processes. A candidate must be willing to interview, physically examine, and provide care to all patients regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, culture, religion, or sexual orientation.