

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED TO
THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREE PROGRAM

Students graduating from the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree program are eligible to take the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX)/Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) and, if successful in passing each exam, may then practice under a state licensure without restriction. As a result, conferring the Pharm.D. degree requires that the College of Pharmacy insure that each student acquire and apply a body of knowledge and professional skills essential to the roles and functioning of a pharmacist. These essential skills are necessary to insure the safety of patients served by the student and pharmacist. Each student must be able to demonstrate proficiency in these skills with or without reasonable accommodation. This document outlines the technical standards that a student must possess, in addition to the successful completion of all of the academic/curricular requirements for the Pharm.D. degree.

The College of Pharmacy Admission Committee reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant who cannot meet these Technical Standards as determined by the application process, interview and student disclosure. In addition, the College of Pharmacy reserves the right to dismiss any student from the program who either fails to disclose information relevant to their qualifications under the Technical Standards, or falls out of compliance with the Technical Standards after admission to the program. The student may need to demonstrate proficiency in these Technical Standards at different points during the professional degree program.

It is understood that the application documents and on-site interview may not adequately evaluate the student's abilities on these Technical Standards. As a result, the applicant should evaluate him/herself on each of the Technical Standards. If an applicant believes they may be unable to meet the Technical Standards of the program, they should contact the Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs of the College of Pharmacy to discuss the issue.

Technical Standards (Skill Areas) – The applicant must meet required aptitude, abilities and skills in the areas identified below:

Observations: An applicant or student must be able to combine the functional use of visual, auditory and somatic senses to observe and demonstrate professional knowledge and skills presented in the classroom, laboratories and practice settings. This includes being able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand, noting verbal and nonverbal signals; visualizing and discriminating findings on a computer monitor or electronic instrumentation display; visualizing and discriminating printed or handwritten words and numbers from a prescription or physician's order; and observing and evaluating distinguishing text and characteristics of pre-manufactured and extemporaneously prepared or compounded medications.

Communication: An applicant or student must be able to communicate and perceive in verbal, nonverbal and written ways with patients and their designated caregivers with a sense of compassion and empathy. This includes the ability to communicate effectively in oral and written (grammar, spelling) English with patients and all members of the health care team. Specific requirements include but are not limited to the following abilities: communicating with the health care team under various conditions in the patient care setting; giving and receiving information through telephone (or cell phone) conversations; eliciting information from another individual; communicating complex findings in a way that is understandable to others; documenting in handwritten or typewritten form to medical records or computer information systems; and recognizing and reacting appropriately to varying emotional states of patients including sadness, worry, anxiety, agitation and lack of comprehension of communications and instructions.

Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function: An applicant or student must possess sufficient motor function and skill to perform the essential functions in the practice of pharmacy. This includes but is not limited to: manipulation of small and large containers (jars, tubes, vials, bottles, syringes/needles) for the purpose of preparing them for dispensing to the patient; performance of basic emergency medical procedures including first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and airway obstruction management; basic physical assessment skills such as blood pressure, pulse, listening with a stethoscope; operation of health screening instruments (e.g. blood glucose, lipid level); and operation of computer equipment.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: An applicant or student must possess sufficient intellectual, conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities to complete a rigorous didactic and experiential curriculum which includes measurement, reasoning, analysis, judgment, synthesis and numerical recognition and computation. It is especially important that applicants and students be able to perform rapid algebraic calculations for a variety of patient-care situations. Students must be able to read and assimilate data from different sources (patient history, laboratory data, physical assessment); provide a reasonable explanation and analysis of problems; make medical suggestions appropriately; develop patient counseling information at a level appropriate to the situation; and retain and recall information in an efficient and timely manner.

Behavioral and Social Attributes: An applicant or student must possess the emotional and mental health required for full utilization of their abilities, exercise good judgment and prompt completion of responsibilities. Empathy, integrity, honesty, concern for others, patience, good interpersonal skills, strong work ethic and motivation are required. Applicants and students must be capable of developing the maturity to maintain a professional demeanor and organization in the face of long hours, personal fatigue, and dissatisfied patients and colleagues under varying degrees of stress. Students will, at times, be required to work for extended periods of time outside of the 8am-5pm "work day". Students must be able to maintain a level of behavior, demeanor, personal hygiene, communication and dress that is expected of patient and caregivers in acute, sub-acute and community practice settings, as well as the classroom and laboratory setting.

Ethical Values: An applicant and student must demonstrate a professional demeanor, conduct and behavior that are appropriate to his/her standing in the professional degree program. This includes compliance with the administrative rules applicable to the profession of pharmacy; and honor codes of the College of Pharmacy and Ferris State University. Under all circumstances, students must protect the confidentiality of any and all patient information in their professional and personal communications. Students must meet the ethical standards set forth in the profession of pharmacy. In addition, students must be able to obtain and maintain a valid Pharmacist Intern license in the State of Michigan and pass requisite criminal background check, drug tests/screens, immunization/tests, and trainings required by the Michigan Board of Pharmacy rules, Michigan law and/or Ferris State University College of Pharmacy affiliated experiential sites and their accrediting and/or regulatory agencies.