

## **Health and Minimal Technical Standards**

### **Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation**

A candidate for admission to KHSU-KansasCOM Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program must possess, or be able to achieve through reasonable accommodation, the standards set forth in this policy that would enable the individual to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Reasonable accommodations will be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and any other applicable laws. An accommodation will not be provided if it would result in the fundamental alteration of KHSU-KansasCOM's programs, services, or activities, or if it would impose undue financial burden on KHSU-KansasCOM.

Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through reasonable accommodation, all requirements outlined below throughout their progression in the program. These personal competencies may also be referred to as technical standards in documents from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). The practice of medicine requires the performance of specific essential functions that fall into broad categories, which include but are not limited to the categories defined below.

Graduation from the DO program signifies that the individual is prepared for entry into graduate medical education (GME), meets all requirements for osteopathic medical licensure, and possesses broad undifferentiated general knowledge in medicine and the basic skills required for the practice of osteopathic medicine. It therefore follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills needed to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and be able to render a wide spectrum of osteopathic medical patient care. The student must be able to integrate consistently, quickly, and accurately, all information received by whatever sense(s) employed. In addition, the individual must have the intellectual ability to learn, analyze, synthesize, and apply various types of information in a self-directed manner within the context of patient-centered decisions across a broad spectrum of medical situations and settings. The avowed intention of an individual student to practice only a narrow part of clinical medicine, or to pursue a non-clinical career, does not alter the requirement that all medical students take and achieve competence in the full KHSU-KansasCOM curriculum.

The following technical standards, in conjunction with the academic standards, are requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. The term "candidate" refers to candidates for admission to KHSU-KansasCOM as well as current osteopathic medical students who are candidates for retention, promotion, or graduation. Candidates with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Coordinator after the applicant is accepted to begin a confidential conversation about what accommodations they may need to meet these standards. Fulfillment of the technical standards for graduation from medical school does not guarantee that a graduate will be able to fulfill the technical requirements of any specific residency program.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in an independent manner, with or without reasonable accommodation.

### **Observation**

Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and microscopic laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and in close proximity.

In addition, all medical school candidates and students must possess visual acuity which is not overly sensitive to the bright lights found in medical schools including simulated patient rooms, operating rooms, hospital hallways and public spaces, and lab environments.

Included below is a table containing relevant examples specific to this competency area. This table does not limit nor otherwise restrict the standard that students and candidates for admission are responsible for meeting and/or performing the skills and abilities defined in this area, irrespective of whether a specific expectation and/or example is included in this table. The examples presented are for illustrative and informational purposes only and are not intended to be an exhaustive listing of requirements.

| Expectation  | Examples   |
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| <p>Possess sufficient uncorrected or corrected visual acuity and color perception to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve objects as small as 2 mm macroscopically</li> <li>• Observe motion and observe and evaluate the human gait at 20 feet</li> <li>• See an object from a background of other objects</li> <li>• See the difference in objects</li> <li>• Possess visual acuity which is not negatively impacted by the bright lighting including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical school</li> <li>○ Laboratory</li> <li>○ Hospital Operating rooms</li> <li>○ Patient environments</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate and identify dissected nerves</li> <li>• Evaluate posture, locomotion, and movement in a clinical setting</li> <li>• Identify landmarks on tympanic membranes</li> <li>• Identify materials correctly to be used in laboratories</li> <li>• Locate, identify, and describe foreign bodies, blood vessels, sutures, and skin lesions</li> <li>• Read printed materials on handouts, exams, and computer screens</li> <li>• Discriminate body height and depth differences and identify anatomic landmarks for symmetry and postural differences visually</li> </ul> |

### Communication

Candidates and students must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues. They must be able to hear and speak and be fluent in the English language.

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| Expectation   | Examples   |
|---|--|
| Have fluency in formal and colloquial oral and written English skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate command of the course material to a professor or attending physician</li> <li>• Comprehend oral lectures, ask questions, and comprehend answers</li> <li>• Explain procedures and discuss results with professors and fellow students</li> <li>• Explain medical conditions to patients, attending physicians and fellow students</li> <li>• Explain procedures and discuss test results on prescribed treatments with patients, attending physicians, and fellow students</li> <li>• Comprehend laboratory safety and emergency situation instructions</li> <li>• Be able to effectively compose written communication, including documentation of patient history, physical exam, assessment, and treatment plan</li> </ul> |

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| Perceive and convey sentiments non-verbally and effectively with patients and all members of the health care team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize, comprehend, and respond appropriately to spoken or non-verbal communication of distress or discomfort</li> </ul> |
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## Motor

Candidates and students must have sufficient motor functions to enable them to execute movements that are reasonably required to provide general and emergency treatment of patients (i.e., palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and therapeutic modalities). These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Additionally, candidates and students must possess sufficient posture, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength, and endurance for standing, sitting, and participating in the laboratory, classroom, and clinical experiences.

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| Expectation   | Examples  |
|---|---|
| Possess equilibrium and coordination of gross and fine muscular movements   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess sufficient strength and mobility to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients including CPR, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, assist with surgical procedures (i.e., handing off of instruments, perform retraction), perform simple obstetrical maneuvers, and perform OMT</li> <li>• Coordinate fine movement of fingertips, palms, and wrists as in elevation of the cranium</li> <li>• Stand with limited opportunity for gross movement for a minimum of 2 hours at a time, as necessary for particular medical procedures, such as performance of obstetrical delivery, assistance of surgical delivery, and assistance of surgical procedure</li> </ul> |
| Possess sufficient visual-motor coordination permitting delicate manipulations of specimens, instruments, and equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in laboratory exercises using required equipment</li> <li>• Perform minor medical procedures such as venipuncture and suturing.</li> </ul>   |

## Sensory

Candidates and students must have enhanced sensory skills, including accuracy within specific tolerances and functional use for laboratory, classroom, and clinical experiences. Candidates and students who are otherwise qualified but who have significant tactile, sensory, or proprioceptive disabilities must be medically evaluated. Examples of issues requiring further evaluation include, but are not limited to, individuals injured by significant burns, those with sensory motor deficits, cicatrix formation, or absence and/or malformations of the extremity(ies).

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| Expectation  | Examples  |
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| Possess accurate sense of touch and temperature discrimination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palpate the musculoskeletal system</li> <li>• Perform history and physical examination procedures specific to an individual</li> <li>• Perform a bimanual pelvic exam</li> <li>• Palpate distances in depth, elevation, and width of body structures</li> <li>• Palpate texture differences, hydration states, fine muscle tension differences, changes in moisture and temperature</li> </ul> |
| Auditory and Visual Senses                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to use a stethoscope</li> <li>• Recognize structures and patient conditions accurately</li> </ul>  |

### Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates and students must demonstrate problem-solving skills, which involve intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities. These abilities include memory, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. In addition, candidates and students must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and be able to understand and manipulate the spatial relationships of structures.

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| Expectation   | Examples  |
|---|---|
| Be able to process multifunctional data and sensory input requiring cognitive recall and motor skills rapidly and initiate critical actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform osteopathic or medical evaluation of patient posture and movement including analysis of physiological, biomechanical, behavioral, and environmental factors in a timely manner, consistent with acceptable clinical norms</li> <li>• Comprehend oral and written presentations of material and communicate that understanding upon examination in a timely manner, occasionally demonstrating a grasp of the information within the same class period as presented</li> <li>• Successfully complete objective exams designed to assess whether students can apply knowledge learned and successfully complete problem-solving exercises</li> <li>• Evaluate emergency situations including apnea, respiratory or cardiac arrest, bleeding, and severe trauma, requiring rapid responses such as intubation and medication</li> </ul> |

## Behavioral, Professional, and Social Attributes

Candidates and students must possess the professionalism required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities. They must show evidence that they can exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities involved in the education process and attending to the assessment and care of patients. Candidates and students must also demonstrate that they can develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with faculty, staff, colleagues, and patients.

Additionally, they must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in patient care. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are some of the personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

Additionally, KHSU-KansasCOM maintains a curriculum that stresses the importance of the body as a unit and the applicability of touch as an integral part of diagnosis and treatment for all patients of all genders. To acquire competencies in physical diagnosis and osteopathic manipulative medical diagnosis and treatment, all students are required to touch others and be touched. Students are required to assume the role of the patient to develop an understanding of the patient experience throughout the curriculum. This includes, but is not limited to, permitting self and demonstrating on others physical exams such as abdominal, cardiac, and musculoskeletal, osteopathic structural exams, osteopathic diagnosis, and osteopathic manipulative treatment.

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| Expectation   | Examples   |
|---|--|
| Manage priorities successfully, including competing demands and multiple tasks under time constraints | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain satisfactory academic progress including completing exams and other time-sensitive assessments and requirements, including patient care, and attending mandatory classes, laboratory sessions and educational programs</li></ul>  |
| Exhibit appropriate behavior, judgment, and ethical standards   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Active participation in and contribution to learning situations</li><li>• Maintain professional communications and interactions with faculty, staff, classmates, patients, and all members of the health care team</li><li>• Adhere to the Standards of Professionalism and Ethics as described in the University and College Catalogs and other documents</li></ul> |
| Adapt successfully to changing environments   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain attention, actively participate, and meaningfully contribute to dialog and practical applications in the classroom, small group exercises, laboratory activities, and inpatient care</li></ul>  |
| Possess constructive, positive, and mature interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accept criticism and respond with appropriate modification of behavior</li></ul>   |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely and adequately respond to personal or academic struggles; seek assistance, practice planning, and avoid procrastination</li> </ul> |
| Participate as both a student patient and a student physician in the learning environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for exposure and palpation of non-sexual body parts when serving as a student patient in the learning environment</li> </ul>        |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expose and palpate non-sexual body parts when serving as a student physician in the learning environment</li> <li>• Participate in learning, including dissection, of cadaveric donor patients</li> <li>• Participate in practice examinations, in scenarios including all genders, as both a student patient and a student physician.</li> </ul> |
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### **Dress Code for Lab Activities**

The nature of lab activities may require students to wear clothing that is casual and comfortable. Both anatomy activities and OMM specific activities may dictate clothing, such as scrubs, shorts, and t-shirts. Anatomy and OMM faculty will communicate dress expectations at the beginning of each term. Students are expected to adhere to the expectations of the anatomy and OMM faculty.

### **Dress Code in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and Physical Diagnosis Laboratories**

It is imperative to the educational process that the specific body region being examined and/or treated will need to be exposed for observation, palpation and treatment. The dress requirement in clinical skills training sessions is designed to promote learning by providing optimal access to diagnostic observation and palpatory experience to the specific region of the body being examined. Wearing inappropriate clothing interferes with a partner's experience of diagnosis and treatment. Garments worn for religious reasons are acceptable dress in OMM laboratory experiences; however, students will need to follow the OMM Lab Adaptations policy outlined in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog.

### **OMM Lab Adaptations**

Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine requires physical touch and the ability to actively participate in observation, palpation, and treatment, including occasional physical exertion to ensure effective and professional care. All students need to refer to the Minimum Technical Standards policy in the Student Handbook and Academic Catalog to ensure they understand the physical requirements of Osteopathic Medicine.

Students who are requesting exceptions to expected OMM Lab activities and common practices must first discuss the issue with the course director. The course director will consider the request and decide whether the request can be adapted within the lab or if the request needs to be referred to Disability Services for formal review.

Students seeking small adaptations related to common religious practice might be required to both meet with the OMM course director and fill out an appropriate adaptation form. Students seeking academic related accommodations must follow the accommodation request process through Disability Services in the Office of Student Affairs. Any adaptation provided for OMM Lab are for the OMM Lab only and do not apply to other course requirements, settings, or policies.

## **Physical Health**

To ensure compliance with the respective state's Department of Public Health requirements and to exhibit exemplary commitment to the rights and integrity of all parties in the education of health care professional students, KHSU-KansasCOM has established medical status credentialing requirements that must be completed prior to matriculation. In addition to the personal competencies listed above, candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree also must be sufficiently free of any serious communicable diseases. Medical status credentialing is designed to ensure that the safety of patients is not compromised while protecting the rights and safety of students as well. For detailed information, contact the Office of the Dean and Chief Academic Officer.

### **Special Note:**

It is the policy of KHSU-KansasCOM to provide equal opportunities for all applicants and students with respect to admission, financial aid, and access to education programs, services, and activities, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, or medical condition. The intent of this policy is to provide each student with the opportunity to excel academically, while creating an equitable environment conducive to learning. In doing so, however, the KHSU-KansasCOM must maintain the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge in all areas of osteopathic medicine, including the demonstration of basic skills required for the practice of osteopathic medicine.

Any student accepted to KHSU-KansasCOM who wants to request accommodations for a disability should follow the Accommodations Policy and Process and submit all required documentation to Disability Services, located in the Office of Student Affairs and Services.