

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

*for pre-doctoral, post-doctoral
and residency programs*

Purpose: To outline the non-academic skills and essential functions that students must demonstrate for matriculation and graduation from the WVU School of Dentistry - pre-doctoral post-doctoral & residency programs.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-112) and incorporating the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA PL 101-336) enacted by Congress in 1990, the West Virginia University School of Dentistry has adopted minimal technical standards for the assessment of all students admitted to its programs.

Because the dental degree signifies that the holder is a dentist prepared for entry into the practice of dentistry, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Specifically, an individual who is enrolled in the School of Dentistry doctoral, post-doctoral, or residency programs must have abilities and skills of five varieties, including observation, communication, motor, intellectual, conceptual, integrative and quantitative, and behavioral and social.

- I. **Observation:** The enrollee must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic and clinical sciences including, but not limited to, anatomical identification, microbiologic cultures, microscopic aspects of normal and diseased tissue, and surgical/restorative procedures performed on oral structures. An enrollee must also be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.
- II. **Communication:** An enrollee must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information and perceive nonverbal communications. An enrollee must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients in both oral and written forms. The enrollee must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.
- III. **Motor:** Enrollees must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients using accepted diagnostic maneuvers and to execute motor movements required to provide surgical and restorative dental treatment and local anesthesia to patients. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
- IV. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem solving, the creative skill demanded of dentists, requires all these intellectual abilities. In addition, the enrollee must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

V. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** An enrollee must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/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. Enrollees 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 learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admissions and education processes.

With these criteria in mind, in its evaluation of enrollees in the various West Virginia University School of Dentistry programs, the appropriate committee will approach each individual with the following questions in mind. The questions are designed to give the committee more complete information about an enrollee's ability to meet the non-academic standards adopted by the School of Dentistry and/or provide necessary accommodations.

1. Is the enrollee able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic and clinical sciences?
2. Is the enrollee able to analyze, synthesize, solve problems, and make diagnostic and therapeutic judgments?
3. Does the enrollee have sufficient use of the senses of vision and hearing and the somatic and motor functions necessary to perform the tasks required for dental diagnostic and treatment regimens?
4. Can the enrollee reasonably be expected to relate to patients and establish sensitive, professional relationships with patients?
5. Can the enrollee reasonably be expected to communicate the results of the examination to the patient and to his/her colleagues with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency?
6. Can the enrollee reasonably be expected to display good judgment in the assessment and treatment of patients?
7. Can the enrollee reasonably be expected to perform with precise, quick, and appropriate actions in emergency situations?
8. Can the enrollee reasonably be expected to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior?
9. Can the enrollee reasonably be expected to possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the dental school curriculum and enter the independent practice of dentistry?