

# Technical Standards for Admission and Fulfillment of Requirements of the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree

## Mission of the PharmD Program

The School's PharmD program prepares student pharmacists to be health care practitioners who optimize the health of patients and society through effective use of medicines and other interventions. The PharmD program inspires students to advance the profession by fostering collaboration, lifelong learning, leadership, professionalism, and civic engagement.

The goal of the curriculum is to achieve the mission of the PharmD program.

In addition to academic qualifications, students must possess a broad range of physical, intellectual and emotional attributes that facilitate and lead to:

- mastery of all elements of the PharmD curriculum;
- licensure as a pharmacist. See last page for questions asked in the application for pharmacy licensure in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The School of Pharmacy's technical standards include categories of physical, intellectual, and emotional attributes necessary to accumulate knowledge, acquire skills and professional behaviors, attitudes and values to practice pharmacy, and advance the profession of pharmacy. Ensuring optimal medication therapy outcomes and patient safety are pivotal forces that underlie the establishment of technical standards required for all students entering, progressing and graduating with a doctor of pharmacy degree.

The School of Pharmacy is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for those otherwise qualified individuals with a disability and adheres to the policies set forth by the University of Pittsburgh. A reasonable academic accommodation is a modification or adjustment that allows an individual to gain equal access and have equal opportunity to participate in the School's and the University's courses, services, activities and use of facilities. The School is not obligated to provide an accommodation that requires a substantial change in the curriculum or alteration of any essential elements or functions of the program. The University's process (<http://www.dr.pitt.edu/policies.html>) for requesting accommodations is voluntary and confidential.

A detailed version of the technical standards can be accessed at the end of this document. Below is an abbreviated list of the technical standards.

All students entering, progressing and graduating with a doctor of pharmacy degree must meet or exceed the following technical standards that include all of the following attributes and abilities but are not limited to:

1. **Intellectual:** Students must possess intellectual abilities and attributes that include intelligence, rational judgment, ability to reason and understand, as well as conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities. Problem solving, critical thinking and development of knowledge and life-long learning are key skills.
2. **Communication:** Students must be able utilize all verbal and non-verbal communication methods to communicate accurately, effectively, professionally, confidentially, and sensitively in English with patients, care-givers, families of patients, members of the health care team, faculty, staff, and fellow students. This includes the abilities of speech, reading, writing, hearing and listening, and comprehension while utilizing a variety of communications mediums. These

abilities primarily utilize the special senses of vision and hearing, somatic sensations as well as intellect and fine motor skills.

3. **Motor and Sensory Functions:** Students must have sufficient gross and fine motor function, equilibrium and functional use of vision and touch to perform all movements required for delivery of pharmaceutical care.
4. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Students must possess personal qualities that include integrity, maturity, compassion, sensitivity, patience, interpersonal skills, initiative and motivation to develop the professional behaviors, attitudes and values to effectively practice pharmacy. Students must possess the emotional and mental health required to complete the PharmD curriculum and execute patient care responsibilities. Students must adhere to the School's professional code of conduct and meet the ethical standards set forth by the pharmacy profession for licensure.
5. **Observation:** Students must have the functional use of auditory, visual and tactile senses for observation and performance of experiments and demonstrations, participation in didactic course requirements and practice based activities.

### Questions from the 2010 Application for Licensure to become a Pharmacist in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

YES NO

1. Do you hold or have you previously held a pharmacist license in any state, territory or country? If yes, please list all states, territories and countries below. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

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If you hold or previously held a pharmacist license in an U.S. state, please have that state's board of pharmacy directly submit a letter of good standing to the Pennsylvania Board. If you are a graduate of a foreign pharmacy school who is NOT required to have FPGEC Certification, please have the board of pharmacy in the country or territory where you are or were licensed submit directly to the Pennsylvania Board a letter of good standing.

2. Have you withdrawn an application for a license, had an application for a license denied or refused, or agreed not to reapply for a license in another state, territory or country? \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Has any disciplinary action been taken against your license in another state, territory or country? \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you been convicted, found guilty or pleaded nolo contendere, or received probation without verdict or accelerated rehabilitative disposition (ARD) as to any felony or misdemeanor, including any drug law violations, or do you have any criminal charges pending and unresolved in any state or jurisdiction? You are not required to disclose any ARD or other criminal matter that has been expunged by order of a court. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you had practice privileges denied, revoked or restricted? \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you had a DEA registration denied, revoked or restricted or have you had provider privileges terminated by any medical assistance agency for cause? \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you, or have you ever been addicted to the intemperate use of alcohol or to the habitual use of narcotics or other habit-forming drugs? (NOTE: You may answer "NO" if you are currently a participant in or have successfully completed the requirements of the Board's Professional Health Monitoring Program.) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you previously taken and failed the NAPLEX? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Detailed description of Technical Standards:**

1. **Intellectual:** Students must possess intellectual attributes that include intelligence, rational judgment, ability to reason and understand, as well as conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities to master the PharmD curriculum and fulfill all requirements of the PharmD program. Problem solving, critical thinking and development of knowledge are key skills necessary for the practice of pharmacy. Students must:
  - demonstrate a fundamental and sustained ability to measure, calculate, retrieve, comprehend, interpret, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information.
  - be able to use critical thinking skills to identify, manage, solve, and prevent problems and make appropriate decisions about a patient's pharmaceutical plan.
  - be able to use analytical reasoning and problem solving skills independently and in collaboration with a health care team to formulate a pharmaceutical plan that maximizes the patient's response to drug therapy, evaluate its success, and make modifications when necessary.
  - be able to understand the research process, the scientific method, and be able to incorporate and utilize new information to provide evidence based pharmaceutical care plans for patient care and clinical problem-solving.
  - have the ability to develop life-long-learning. This may require the ability to recognize knowledge and skill deficits and to formulate a learning plan to address, compensate and improve professional knowledge and skills to ensure optimal patient care
  - be able to identify and analyze emerging issues that may affect individual health as well as public health.
  - be able to process information and perform all these abilities in an efficient and timely manner.
  
2. **Communication:** Students must be able utilize all verbal and non-verbal communication methods to communicate accurately, effectively, professionally, confidentially, and sensitively in English with patients, care-givers, families of patients, members of the health care team, faculty, staff, and fellow students. This includes the abilities of speech, reading, writing, hearing and listening, and comprehension while utilizing a variety of communications mediums. These abilities primarily utilize the special senses of vision and hearing, somatic sensations as well as intellect and fine motor skills. Students must be able to:
  - perceive and respond to non-verbal communications such as mood, activity, temperament, and cultural differences.
  - create a patient database utilizing data obtained from the medical chart and/or by direct patient assessment and/or communication to create a pharmaceutical care plan.

- counsel and educate patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and the community about drug therapy and health issues.
  - read, write, hear, comprehend, and assimilate scientific and medical information from a variety of electronic and written sources, as well as from didactic, laboratory, clinical and experiential curricular requirements (components).
3. **Motor and Sensory Functions:** Students must have sufficient gross and fine motor function, equilibrium and functional use of vision and touch to perform all movements required for delivery of pharmaceutical care. Students must be able to:
- administer medications such as immunization injections, provide first aid treatments such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and elicit information from patients by physical touching (e.g. blood pressure recordings, pulse reading).
  - perform the basic tasks in the practice of pharmacy: compound and /or dispense medications consistent with patient needs and in compliance with local policy, state and federal pharmacy laws, (accurately interpret prescriptions, select appropriate dosage forms, use calculations and techniques to prepare, compound, package, label and dispense prescriptions to assure product quality—leave out?).
  - withstand the physical requirements and stresses imposed by the typical daily routine of the student pharmacist and practitioner in a variety of settings.
4. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Students must possess personal qualities that include integrity, maturity, compassion, sensitivity, patience, interpersonal skills, initiative and motivation to develop the professional behaviors, attitudes and values to effectively practice pharmacy. Students must:
- act with the highest level of integrity and ethics in all they do while complying with all local policies, and state and federal pharmacy laws.
  - possess the emotional and mental health required to fully utilize their intellectual abilities, exercise sound judgment and decision making skills to complete the curriculum and execute patient care responsibilities.
  - be able to adapt to changing environments, work under stress, and display flexibility
  - be able to take responsibility for the outcomes of medication therapy and make rational and ethical decisions that represent the best interests of the patient.
  - be committed to self-improvement and life-long learning, be able to recognize their own limitations, seek help when necessary and accept and respond appropriately to constructive feedback by modifying their behavior.
  - be able to develop mature and effective relationships with patients, caregivers, family members of patients, other health care professionals, faculty, staff, and fellow students while showing respect and sensitivity to cultural diversity, exercising compassion and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of health information.

- demonstrate concern for the health and well-being of individuals and the community.
- contribute to the advancement of the profession, and promote a culture of professionalism.
- adhere to the School of Pharmacy's professional code of conduct.
- meet the ethical standards set forth by the pharmacy profession for licensure.

5. **Observation:** Students must have the functional use of auditory, visual and tactile senses for observation and performance of experiments and demonstrations, participation in didactic course requirements and practice based activities. Students must:

- be able to observe and evaluate a patient's activity and behavior, perform basic physical assessments and conduct patient interviews.
- be able to accurately conduct all steps related to medication order processing.
- be able to read, comprehend and interpret in English all written, presented and illustrated information from diverse learning environments including diagnostic and tests monitoring therapy.