

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, PROMOTION AND GRADUATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE (PREDOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL PROGRAMS)

Effective Date: 11/17/2021

Decisions by the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine's (subsequently referred to herein as "School") Admissions Committees are based on prior scholastic achievement, interpersonal and communication skills, motivation, industry, resourcefulness, and resiliency. Admission decisions do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Students must possess the intelligence, integrity, and personal and emotional characteristics appropriate to the successful dentist.

As a primary surgical specialty, the dental curriculum must include, in addition to the accumulation of certain scientific knowledge, the simultaneous acquisition of essential surgical skills, technical functions, and professional attitudes and behaviors. During the process, the student is required to direct and perform treatment on the School's patients safely and within an acceptable amount of time. Students must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the education. Any student or applicant seeking admission, enrollment (first time or continued) or graduation as a student (subsequently referred to herein as "student"); therefore, must be able to meet the following technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Reasonable Accommodations

The University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine is committed to diversity and to attracting and educating students who will make the population of healthcare professionals' representative of the national population. We provide confidential and specialized disability support and are committed to excellence in accessibility; we encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations.

Students who, after review of the technical standards determine that they require accommodation(s) to fully engage in the program, should contact the [Office for Disability, Access and Inclusion \(ODAI\)](#) to confidentially discuss their accommodations needs. Given the clinical nature of the program, additional time may be needed to implement accommodation(s). Accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged.

I. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

A student for the Doctor of Dental Surgery, D.D.S. degree must possess abilities and skills which include those that are sensory/observational, communicational, motor, intellectual-conceptual (integrative and quantitative), and behavioral and social. The attainment of knowledge mandates that the candidate attends classes, laboratories and clinics on a regular basis as defined in the dental

school's attendance policies.

II. SENSORY/OBSERVATION

GENERAL: A student must be able to acquire a defined level of required information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and dental sciences.

SPECIFIC: This includes, but is not limited to, information conveyed through physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, microbiological cultures, microscopic images of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A student must be able to acquire information from written documents, including charts and patient records, and to visually see information presented in images from paper, films, slides or video, for example an interpretation of x-rays. A student must have functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensation while being enhanced by the functional use of sensory modalities.

GENERAL: A student must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a reasonable distance and close at hand, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing dental operations or administering medications.

SPECIFIC: A student must be able to perform visual and tactile dental examinations and treatment including use of visual acuity with an ability to discern differences and variations in color, shape, and general appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues. Use of tactile senses may be either direct palpation or indirect through instrumentation. A student must also possess the visual acuity to distinguish colors intra- and extra-orally and to make such visual observations as are necessary to provide diagnosis and treatment.

III. COMMUNICATION

GENERAL: A student must be able to: communicate effectively and sensitively with patients; convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in person and in writing with all members of the health care team.

SPECIFIC: A student must have sufficient facility with English to retrieve information from texts and lectures and communicate concepts on written exams and patient's charts; elicit patient backgrounds; describe patient changes in condition, symptoms, moods, activity, and posture; and coordinate patient care with all members of the health care team.

IV. MOTOR SKILLS

GENERAL: It is required that a student possess the motor skills necessary to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, visual acuity for safe patient care, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Students must have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and treatment to patients.

SPECIFIC: A student must be able to perform basic life support (including CPR), and to position himself/herself around the patient and chair at heights and locations necessary to achieve effective patient treatment, including positioning the patient. The candidate must be able to: operate all dental equipment and tools commonly necessary to the effective treatment of patients, operate high and low speed dental movements to within the minimum standard for the procedure being completed, and utilize hand instrumentation effectively (including scalpels for surgical procedures).

V. INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

GENERAL: The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize.

SPECIFIC: The student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of dentists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. The student must be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion.

VI. BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

GENERAL: A student must possess the behavioral qualities and mannerisms required for full utilization of their 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.

SPECIFIC: A student must be able to tolerate intellectually and physically-taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Compassion integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interests, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes. Further, a student must be able to manage apprehensive patients with a range of moods and behaviors in a tactful, congenial, personal manner so as not to alienate and/or antagonize them. A student must reasonably be expected

to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

SPECIFIC: The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment consistent with the profession, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships.

VII. ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

GENERAL: A student must possess the self-discipline and integrity to maintain the standards of conduct for ethics and professionalism as set forth in the [American Dental Association's Principles of Ethics](#) and Code of Professional Conduct and the [School's Honor Code](#).

SPECIFIC: A student must always act in the best interest of the patient and society even when there is a conflict with the student's personal self-interest. The student must conduct oneself as a trustworthy and responsible citizen and act with impeccable integrity in their interactions with students, faculty, staff and the public. A student must refrain from actions that detract from the professional atmosphere or orderly appearance of the School of Dental Medicine or University, adhere to the [CUSDM Dress Code](#). This expectation would also apply when attending any school-sponsored or related activities such as preceptorships, externships, external off-site rotations, and Advanced Clinical Training and Service (ACTS) rotations.

The University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine recognizes the award of a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree carries with it the full authority of the institution and communicates to those who might seek the services of the bearer that they are competent to practice dentistry. The DDS degree is a broad degree unique in that the graduate is prepared, and upon licensure is allowed, to practice all disciplines of the dental profession. This requires that the student in the curriculum acquire didactic knowledge, as well as learning skills and attitudes essential to the profession and agreed upon by the faculty as requisite for the practice of dentistry. The student requires both cognitive skills, technical skills and emotional/physical wellbeing to satisfy the requirements of this curriculum.

Students who believe they will require accommodation to meet the technical standards of the DDS program should contact the Office of Disability, Access, and inclusion (<https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/office-of-disability-access-and-inclusion/home-page>), to schedule an access meeting. Given the clinical nature of the program it may take time to obtain or implement accommodations and accommodations are not retroactive in nature; therefore, we encourage early disclosure of disability and request for accommodation.

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I, the undersigned, have read and can meet the Technical Standards necessary for Admission,
Promotion and Graduation at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.

Signature

Date

Print Name