Institutional Policy D9000c
Example of Student Attestation

Specific Technical Standards which students must be aware of as these are essential for participating in all academic and clinical portions of the osteopathic curriculum are noted below.

1. Touch

Osteopathic medicine requires a physician to exhibit the sense of touch for examination. They must be comfortable and have the ability to touch a human being of both sexes as part of learning the osteopathic approach to diagnosis and treatment.

Students who wish to attend NCOM must agree in writing to touch others in order to acquire the skills necessary for palpation and examination of classmates and to be touched by peers in these laboratories.

Acquiring the skills to palpate and examine patients requires examination of disrobed patients of all genders; therefore, examination of fellow students of all genders, who may be partially disrobed, is required.

Students who have any concerns or questions should discuss them with the Associate/Assistant Dean of Student Affairs prior to applying.

2. Vision

Osteopathic physicians utilize visual inspection to examine the position and balance of the musculoskeletal system; tissue texture changes; skin lesions and rash types; skin, nail, and mucus membrane color; eyes (including fundoscopic); ears, nose, throat; genitalia; and other areas in the process of diagnosis. Vision is also required to master fine skills such as suturing or using a scalpel, and surgical removal of foreign bodies or certain tissues, and other surgical procedures. Vision is also required to interpret many diagnostic tests.
The student must be able to visually observe changes in the human body, laboratory demonstrations, microscopic tissue with the aid of the microscope, and computer-based pictures used in laboratory demonstrations.

The student must be able to visually and accurately observe physical signs and symptoms of a patient used in diagnosis and management.

3. Hearing

The sense of hearing is required in osteopathic medicine to listen for the sounds of bodily functions such as heartbeat, murmurs, blood pressure, lung sounds, bowel sounds, the flow of blood through vessels, and other sounds associated with normal and abnormal findings. Reasonable accommodations may be made for students with hearing loss in the use of specialized stethoscopes and with the student using their own personal hearing aids.

The aids must lead to a reasonable hearing level to identify normal from abnormal body sounds.

4. Communication

The student must be able to communicate non-verbally, verbally, and in writing effectively in English as the curriculum and clinical experiences are offered in English only. NCOM requires the functional ability to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit accurate medical information.

The student must learn and demonstrate the ability to gather medical information in a humanistic manner and must be able both to recognize and describe changes in mood, activity, posture, and other physical characteristics and to perceive nonverbal communication required in patient centered medicine.

The student must be able to demonstrate these forms of effective communication in a taped video setting with standardized patients in the first two years and in the clinical setting during the OMS 3 and 4 years.

Students are also required to read large volumes of medical literature in English to learn the required information for practicing medicine. This requires a proficiency in reading and the ability to complete all coursework in the given timeframe.

Reasonable accommodations that can be provided include spellcheck and extended time for exams.

5. Motor and Physical Function

Students must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, percussion, and other diagnostic measures. Students must also have sufficient motor function to perform osteopathic manipulation. Examples of emergent motor functions are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, gaining of intravenous access, administration of intravenous fluids and intravenous medications, management of an obstructed airway or respiratory failure, hemorrhage control, closure by suturing of wounds, and obstetrical deliveries. All of these actions require fine and gross motor and sensory function. Student must be able to perform these maneuvers.

6. Intellectual Ability

The student must have the ability to reason, calculate, analyze, measure, and synthesize information to critically evaluate the patient and the most recent evidence-based information for treatment.

The student must be able to comprehend, memorize, synthesize, and recall a large amount of information without assistance, to successfully complete the curriculum and to practice osteopathic medicine safely and successfully.

The student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand spatial relationships as it pertains to body chemicals and microscopic functions to anatomical functions in order to succeed in school and to administer safe medical care.

7. Ability in Standardized Test Taking

NCOM's accreditor, the COCA, requires students to pass COMLEX Level I and Level 2-CE, exams prior to graduation and be clinically prepared for residency training; therefore, students must be able to perform satisfactorily on timed, computerized, and clinical performance comprehensive standardized exams.

NBOME determines the student's ability to receive accommodations (or not) for this exam and therefore, the student's ability to pass the licensing exams with the accommodation level awarded by NBOME is the technical standard.

8. Behavioral and Mental Health Attributes

The student must have the emotional and psychological health needed for full use of their intellectual capabilities at all times. The emotional and psychological health required for effective communication and for professional, ethical, mature, sensitive, and compassionate patient/physician or patient/student relationships must be present.

Students must be able to function effectively under a high degree of chronic/intermittent stress and testing required in medical school, in COMLEX national licensing testing, as well as in specialty board certification at the end of residency.

The ability to adapt to changing environments and stressful situations and to display compassion and integrity, while maintaining the necessary intellectual, emotional, and psychological capacity to care for patients is one that is observed during the interview process and throughout the progress in medical school.

9. Professional and Ethical Attributes

Students must have the professional and ethical capabilities to care for patients effectively and safely. This requires the student to demonstrate careful and safe decision making at all times, to be free from addiction/impairment, to discriminate between legal and illegal behaviors, to make moral rather than immoral decisions, to make ethical rather than unethical decisions, and to demonstrate professional rather than unprofessional behaviors. These same behaviors are expected of students throughout their program.

Professional and ethical attributes are those expected of an osteopathic physician by all of society and generally by state medical boards. These attributes are those that instill a sense of trust by patients and colleagues in the medical community.

10. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The applicant and student must self-identify if they do not meet technical standards.

NCOM assures that no adverse view of the application will be made if accommodations are requested.

In order for NCOM to provide reasonable accommodations, candidates must identify to the Office of Admissions all areas where accommodations may be needed in order to be successful in the educational program or where there is question in meeting these technical standards. Those who may require accommodations must provide adequate documentation, including, but not limited to, psychometric testing, medical records, and prior educational records.

I attest that I have read and understand the above technical standards and have the following limitations:

None _____

(other)_____
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STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE