

# HACKENSACK MERIDIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## Technical Standards for Admission, Progression and Graduation

The technical standards for the HMSOM are based on the essential cognitive, emotional, and physical demands required to succeed in the curriculum, and the ability to perform as a successful physician. The HMSOM recognizes that certain minimum technical standards must be met by candidates for admission and all current students at the HMSOM (hereinafter designated as candidates for the M.D. degree) to provide for safe and effective participation in the medical education program and to uphold the integrity of HMSOM's curriculum. The curriculum of the HMSOM has been designed to provide a general professional education leading to the MD degree and to prepare undifferentiated students to enter graduate medical training in a wide variety of medical specialties and subspecialties. All candidates for the M.D. degree should possess sufficient intellectual capacity, physical ability, emotional and psychological stability, interpersonal sensitivity, and communication skills to acquire the scientific knowledge, interpersonal and technical competencies, professional attitudes, and clinical abilities required to pursue any pathway of graduate medical education, and to enter the independent practice of medicine. All candidates should be aware that the academic and clinical responsibilities of medical students may, at times, require their presence during day, evening, and nighttime hours, seven days per week. Candidates should be able to tolerate physically-taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. Therefore, achievement of specific technical standards in six core domains (general functions, communication, cognitive ability, observation, motor, behavioral/social attributes) is necessary for admission, progression, and graduation from any clinical program in HMSOM.

These standards are commensurate with AAMC publications, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the American Disabilities Act. HMSOM will consider for admission any candidate who meets its academic and non-academic criteria and who demonstrates the ability to perform the skills listed in this document, with or without reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Candidates for the M.D. degree will be assessed at regular intervals on the basis of their academic and non-academic abilities, with or without reasonable accommodations. An accommodation is not reasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of patients or others, if making it requires a fundamental alteration in an essential element of the medical education program, or if it poses an undue burden.

HMSOM has established the following technical standards for admission to, retention in, and graduation from the M.D. program:

All candidates for admission must fulfill the minimum requirements for admission, and all candidates for the M.D. degree must complete all required courses and clerkships.

All candidates for admission and all candidates for the M.D. degree should possess sufficient physical, intellectual, interpersonal, social, emotional, psychological, and communication qualities as outlined below:

## **1. General Functions**

Candidates should possess the personal qualities of integrity, empathy, concern for the welfare of others, interest, and motivation. They should possess the emotional and psychological health required for the full use of their intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment; the prompt completion of all responsibilities associated with the diagnosis and care of patients; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, patients' families, and professional colleagues. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to be flexible, and to function in the face of ambiguities inherent in the clinical situation. Candidates should be able to accurately and consistently perceive, integrate, and interpret visual, hearing, smell, and touch sensations in order to gather significant information needed to effectively evaluate patients. The candidate must have the capability to communicate and to receive information, and to accurately interpret such, verbally, nonverbally, and in writing. They must be able to respond promptly to urgent situations occurring during clinical education experiences to preserve the health and safety of patients, clients, visitors, staff, or others in health care settings. The candidate should not interfere with the capabilities of other members of the health care team to appropriately provide care to patients.

## **2. Communication**

The candidate must have the ability to effectively communicate verbally, non-verbally, and in writing, with a wide variety of individuals and groups. This includes the ability to elicit, receive, and accurately interpret information from others; to collect, document, and convey relevant information to others; to understand and use health care terminology; and to comprehend and follow directions and instructions.

The candidate must be able to read, write, comprehend, and speak the English language, and to communicate accurately and effectively with patients, significant others, health care workers and other professionals in health care settings, as well as with instructors, supervisors, classmates, and various health or educational team members in both clinical and classroom settings. In addition, the candidate must be able to document accurately in patient records, present information in a professional and logical manner, and appropriately provide patient counseling and instruction to effectively care for patients or clients and their families.

## **3. Cognitive Ability**

The candidate must have the capacity to develop and refine critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are crucial for safe and effective medical practice. These processes involve capabilities to measure, quantify, calculate, question, analyze, conceptualize, reason, integrate, and synthesize information in order to make timely decisions reflecting sound clinical judgment and to take appropriate clinical actions. Candidates must additionally be able to find and utilize research-based evidence; to learn from other individuals; to comprehend, integrate, and apply new information; to make sound clinical decisions; and to communicate outcomes verbally and in writing. Candidates should be able to make measurements, calculate, and to reason; to analyze, integrate, and synthesize data to problem-solve and ultimately make logical diagnostic and therapeutic judgments. Candidates should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Candidates should be able to integrate rapidly, consistently, and accurately all data received by whatever sense(s) employed.

## **4. Observation**

The candidate must be able to collect, use, and interpret information from diagnostic and assessment procedures and tools (e.g., sphygmomanometer, pulse oximeter, weight scales,

stethoscope/hearing impaired stethoscope, otoscope, ophthalmoscope, and reflex hammer), and from all other modes of patient assessment in the context of laboratory studies, medication administration, and all other patient care activities. In addition, the candidate must be able to document these observations and maintain accurate records. Candidates must be able to observe demonstrations, collect data, and participate in experiments and dissections in the basic sciences, including, but not limited to, cadaver dissection, demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states.

## **5. Motor**

The candidate must have gross and fine neuro-motor capability and dexterity, with sufficient coordination, to perform thorough physical examinations utilizing techniques including inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation, and/or other diagnostic maneuvers; perform or assist with procedures and treatments; use syringes and needles; administer medications by oral, otic, ophthalmic, rectal and parenteral routes; implement other therapeutic interventions including but not limited to sterile procedures, isolation, airway maintenance, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, operation of diagnostic and therapeutic medical equipment, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the suturing of simple wounds to assist in surgical procedures and in the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both fine and gross muscular movements and equilibrium. Candidates should have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature), proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory), and motor function to carry out the requirements of the physical examination. The candidate must have both physical and mental endurance to adapt to extended periods of sitting, standing, moving, and physical exertion required for safe performance in clinical and classroom settings. The candidate must be capable of moving within and between clinical treatment environments without compromising the safety of others.

## **6. Behavioral and Social Attributes**

The candidate must possess the capacity to communicate effectively, respectfully, and with cultural competency, with all individuals he/she encounters, and to demonstrate behaviors associated with compassion, respect and concern for others, integrity and ethical comportment, sound clinical judgment, and accountability for his/her responsibilities and actions. They must be able to accept the supervision of an instructor and/or preceptor, to accept constructive criticism or feedback, and to modify behavior based on feedback. The candidate must demonstrate critical thinking in making sound clinical judgments, have the capacity for flexibility, and demonstrate the ability to adapt quickly to rapidly-changing situations and environments and/or to uncertain circumstances. They must have the capacity to correctly judge when assistance is required and seek appropriate assistance in a timely manner. The candidate must be able to function cooperatively and efficiently with others and must have the capacity to develop and utilize conflict resolution processes when necessary. Candidates should possess the personal qualities of integrity, empathy, concern for the welfare of others, interest, and motivation. They should possess the emotional and psychological health required for the full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities associated with the diagnosis and care of patients. As medical education involves exposure to a wide variety of stressful situations, the candidate must be able to function effectively in stressful situations in both the classroom and clinical settings.

**Are you capable of meeting the School of Medicine’s Technical Standards as described above?**

- \_\_\_\_ Yes, without accommodations
- \_\_\_\_ Yes, with accommodations
- \_\_\_\_ No, with or without accommodations

*If you require accommodations, please make contact as soon as possible with:*

Grace Bandoh, PhD | Director, Student Accessibility Services  
Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine  
123 Metro Boulevard, Office 4225, Nutley, NJ 07110  
Phone: 973-542-6719  
**Email:** [Grace.Bandoh@hmn.org](mailto:Grace.Bandoh@hmn.org)

I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge receipt of the Technical Standards for Admission, Progression and Graduation Policy for Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine and that I have read and understand the policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date