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| Policies of the University of North Texas Health Science Center | Chapter 07 – Student Affairs, Education and Funding |
| 07.509 TCOM - Applicant Selection Criteria: Health and Technical Standards | |

Policy Statement.

All candidates must meet health and technical standards to be admitted and to participate in the medical education programs of TCOM. Because the doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) degree signifies that the holder is a physician prepared for entry into the practice of medicine within post-graduate training programs, it follows that the graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and be able to provide a wide spectrum of patient care.

Application of Policy.

All accepted applicants to the medical school (TCOM).

Definitions.

1. Regionally Accredited University. Regional accreditation is a term used in the [United States](#) to refer to the process by which one of several [accrediting](#) bodies, each serving one of six defined geographic areas of the country, accredits schools, colleges, and universities. Each regional accreditor encompasses the vast majority of public and nonprofit private educational institutions in the region it serves.
2. Applicant. “Applicant” means one who is seeking admission to school.
3. Advanced Standing. “Advanced Standing” means the candidate will enter the medical school (TCOM) at the beginning of their junior year and complete their last two years of clinical education at UNTHSC.

Procedures and Responsibilities.

Procedure / Duty

Responsible Party

1. A candidate for the DO degree must have abilities and skills in five areas: observation; communication; motor; conceptual, integrative and quantitative; and behavioral and social. Reasonable accommodations will be made as required by law, however, the candidate must be able to meet all technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation and is not a permissible accommodation.

Candidate for DO Degree

Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures and microscopic studies of microorganisms, and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at

hand. Observation requires the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensations. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

Communication: A candidate should be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in verbal and written form with all members of the health care team.

Psychomotor: Candidates should have sufficient coordinated motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to perform basic laboratory tests and carry out diagnostic procedures. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care, osteopathic manipulation, and emergency treatment to patients.. Such actions shall require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Intellectual: Conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities, including measurement, calculations, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavior and Social Attributes: Candidates must have the emotional health required for full use 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. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admission and education processes.

References and Cross-references.

Forms and Tools. (optional)

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