School of Pharmacy
Medical Sciences Campus
University of Puerto Rico

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS TO THE PROFESSIONAL DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PharmD) PROGRAM

The following document sets forth the Technical Standards for the admissions process to the professional Doctor of Pharmacy Program and was endorsed and implemented by the School Faculty. Every applicant invited to interview for admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy, as well as every student admitted to the program, must read this document and sign the corresponding Acknowledgment of Understanding (see Appendix 1).

The admissions process for the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy is open to all qualified individuals and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended in 2008. The School is also committed to providing equal opportunities to all applicants to its professional program. Likewise, the School will select applicants who have the ability to become highly competent pharmacists, with an education that enables them to work in any area of professional practice, as well as to pursue postgraduate studies and residencies, among other opportunities. As an accredited institution, the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy is governed by the accreditation standards of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). As part of these standards, the School of Pharmacy is responsible for selecting students; designing, implementing, and evaluating the curriculum; evaluating student progress; and determining who will be granted the degree. Decisions to admit and retain students are based on both satisfactory academic achievement and non-academic factors that help ensure that applicants can perform all the functions required by the academic program in accordance with the practice of the pharmacy profession.

Applicants to the Doctor of Pharmacy Program must possess the following skills and attributes, as required by the practice of the pharmacy profession: observation; communication; sensory and motor skills; intellectual skills; and emotional stability and adequate interpersonal relationships. All candidates and enrolled students are expected to comply with the Medical Sciences Campus and the School's established immunization, screening, and communicable disease prevention requirements, consistent with applicable federal and Puerto Rico laws and regulations. Applicants are responsible for conducting a self-assessment to determine whether they possess the skills and attributes listed above to successfully complete the program of study. (The use of a trained intermediary may not be acceptable in certain clinical situations if this means that an applicant’s judgment must be mediated by the selection and observational abilities of a third party. The School may provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities, provided that such accommodations do not require a fundamental change to the curriculum requirements, create a direct threat to the health or safety of others, or impose an undue burden.) Applicants must be able to consistently, efficiently, and accurately integrate all information received through any of the sensory modalities. They must also possess the intellectual capacity and ability to learn, integrate, analyze, synthesize, and apply information.

I. Observation

Applicants must be able to acquire and process a defined level of information required in the program, as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and clinical sciences.

Furthermore, applicants must be able to:

1. Accurately observe patients, both at a distance and up close; obtain information from written documents; and view information presented in printed images, films, slides, videos, and other media.
2. Recognize and appreciate nonverbal communication when interviewing patients and interacting with all members of the healthcare team.

These observations and the acquisition of information require functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic senses, enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities. If an applicant's ability to observe, acquire, and process information through sensory modalities is impaired, the applicant must demonstrate alternative means and skills for acquiring and demonstrating the essential information conveyed in this manner. If the alternatives are acceptable, the student is expected to be responsible for obtaining and using those alternative means and skills.

II. Communication

Applicants must be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced proficiency in reading, writing, and oral communication in both Spanish and English; that is, the student can express ideas fluently, use language flexibly for social, academic, and professional purposes, and produce clear, well-structured written text.
2. Speak, listen, and observe in order to obtain information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive and interpret nonverbal communication.
3. Communicate effectively and efficiently, both orally and in writing, with patients, family members, peers, faculty, supervisors, healthcare professionals, and others.
4. Communicate orally and in writing, both independently and with others, including in situations where time is limited. If an applicant's ability to communicate is impaired, the applicant must possess other methods and skills to effectively acquire and demonstrate essential information.

III. Sensory/Motor Skills

Applicants are required to:

1. Possess the sensory and motor skills necessary to handle equipment required to prepare dosage forms, such as capsules, ointments, and intravenous preparations, among others.
2. Be able to work with instruments such as scales, mortar and pestle, syringes, and needles, among others.
3. Use motor and cognitive skills to operate information technology resources.
4. Use sensory and motor skills for palpation, auscultation, and other procedures, such as measuring blood pressure, pulse, and others.
5. Use sensory and motor skills to read and interpret patient profiles (patient records and treatments), and to distinguish dosage colors for identification purposes.
6. Possess the ability to communicate effectively in person, by telephone, in writing and via other technological methods with patients, family members, peers, faculty, supervisors, healthcare professionals, and others.
7. Use motor skills to perform the tasks required by the academic program.
8. Use manual, cognitive, and interpersonal functions in the academic program to complete tasks within a reasonable amount of time.

IV. Intellectual Skills

Applicants must be able to:

1. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, synthesize, evaluate and apply information, among other skills. These intellectual skills are essential to developing competencies such as problem-solving and decision-making, among others.
2. Learn effectively through a variety of modalities, including, but not limited to: classroom lectures; small-group discussions; independent and group study; preparation and presentation of written and oral reports, individually or in groups; and the use of current and emerging technologies.

V. Emotional Stability, Attitudes, and Relationships

Applicants must demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. Demonstrate emotional stability at all times; use their intellectual abilities to their fullest potential; exercise sound judgment; promptly fulfill all responsibilities related to pharmaceutical care; and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships.
2. Care for patients who demonstrate a variety of emotions and behaviors.
3. Tolerate physically, emotionally, and intellectually demanding workloads, and function effectively under emotional stress.
4. Adapt to environmental changes, demonstrate flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in patients' problems.

5. Possess personal qualities such as compassion, integrity, empathy, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation. These qualities will be assessed during the admissions process and developed and evaluated at the School of Pharmacy.
6. Have the ability to learn, understand, and practice in accordance with the values, ethical principles, and state and federal laws governing the pharmacy profession.
7. Be able to interact with everyone honestly and respectfully, without discriminating on the basis of race, religion, condition, gender, or ethnic origin.
8. Understand that a career in pharmacy requires a high level of dedication and sacrifice. They must use their influence in interpersonal relationships appropriately and for the benefit of all.
9. Use the special privileges and trust inherent in the profession appropriately.
10. Demonstrate the ability to examine and deliberate effectively on social and ethical issues that affect pharmacists' responsibilities, and to reason critically about these issues.
11. Identify their own personal reactions and responses (which may negatively affect patient care and professional relationships), make judgments about them, recognize multiple points of view, and appropriately integrate these perspectives when making decisions.
12. Be able to respond to constructive criticism of themselves and, as a result, make the necessary changes in behavior and/or performance.

A candidate with a diagnosed psychiatric condition may be a pharmacy student, provided that the condition is controlled and allows the candidate to meet the Technical Standards for the admissions process to the professional Doctor of Pharmacy Program, with or without reasonable accommodation. If the student's emotional stability deteriorates, the student must seek professional help before the condition places the student, patients, or colleagues at risk.

VI. Immunization

Healthcare professionals who provide direct patient care may be exposed to infectious diseases and may potentially transmit communicable illnesses, particularly to individuals who are immunocompromised or otherwise medically vulnerable. Accordingly, the School of Pharmacy is committed to promoting a safe learning and practice environment and protecting the health of students, patients, healthcare personnel, and the communities served. All candidates and enrolled students are expected to comply with the Medical Sciences Campus and the School's established immunization, screening, and communicable disease prevention requirements, consistent with applicable federal and Puerto Rico laws and regulations. These requirements include the Puerto Rico Department of Health Immunization Certification PVAC-3 ("*papel verde*"), proof of Hepatitis B immunization and/or protective serum titles, proof of Varicella immunization and/or protective titles, and influenza virus annual immunization. These are intended to minimize the risk of exposure to and transmission of preventable communicable diseases.

Certain courses such as the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) conducted in affiliated hospitals or clinical training sites establish the same or additional immunization, screening, or health clearance requirements in accordance with contractual agreements. These requirements may be subject to changes while the student is enrolled in the academic program due to evidence-based clinical recommendations or contractual modifications.

Candidates and enrolled students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with applicable health and immunization requirements, submitting required documentation, and observing established deadlines. Compliance with applicable requirements is necessary for participation in didactic and experiential activities and continued progression in the PharmD program. The School may require additional health assessments, testing, or documentation when reasonably necessary to address individual circumstances and applicable patient safety requirements, consistent with applicable law or contractual agreements.

Reasonable Accommodation

The School of Pharmacy does not inquire whether an applicant has any physical or emotional disability before making an admissions decision, nor after the applicant has been admitted. A student who wishes to request a reasonable accommodation must submit the request through the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSEI Spanish acronym for *Oficina de Servicios a Estudiantes con Impedimentos)* ascribed to the Medical Sciences Campus Deanship of Students, as the first step in activating the procedure established for this purpose at the Medical Sciences Campus. To evaluate the requested accommodation, the student must provide the documentation required with the request. The School will take the necessary steps to assess the merits of the reasonable accommodation. The measures adopted will not include modifications that alter the nature of the program or actions that represent an unreasonable burden for the School.

Students must meet all Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, in order to enroll in or continue in the program of study. The costs of reasonable accommodation will be assumed by the School of Pharmacy unless they are funded by another entity.

The Technical Standards for the professional Doctor of Pharmacy Program were endorsed by the Faculty of the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy on March 17, 2010, at Special Faculty Meeting No. 9 (2009–2010).

Acknowledgment of Understanding of the Technical Standards for the Professional Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy for Applicants for Admission or Admitted Students

I have read and understand the above Technical Standards for the admissions process to the professional program and throughout my years of study in the professional Doctor of Pharmacy Program. If I am admitted and enroll as a student at the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy, I understand that I am expected to comply with these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation.

I understand that the Institution reserves the right to initiate the appropriate action or actions if it determines that I do not comply with the Technical Standards included in this document.

I certify that, at the time I sign this document, I meet the Technical Standards set forth herein.

A. Applicant for Admission

_____ _____

Printed Name Signature

_____

Date

B. Admitted Student

_____ _____

Printed Name Signature

_____

Date

Approved at Faculty Meeting No.9 (2009–2010)
March 17, 2010
(rev. March 2012 MLG/agr)
Revised by SRS, EAC 10-19-2026
Revised by WTM-FMR 11-16-2026