

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY AND DENTAL CLINICS  
**TECHNICAL STANDARDS for ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION**

University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics is committed to the principle of diversity. Consistent with that commitment, admission to the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics is open to all qualified individuals and complies with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1993). These technical standards reflect performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the dental school curriculum, including the clinical component, which involves treating the College's patients.

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry recognizes the award of the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree that carries with it the full authority of the institution and communicates to those who might seek the services of the bearer that the clinician is 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 sensory, cognitive, interpersonal and technical skills to negotiate this curriculum.

The College is mindful of the unique nature of the dental curriculum. Applicants must possess the skills, abilities and attributes that will allow them to successfully and professionally complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the education. In the process, the student is required to direct or perform treatment on the patients of the College. The College has the responsibility of insuring the safety of the patients. This includes the completion of quality treatment safely and within an acceptable amount of time.

The following technical standards describe the essential functions that all students must demonstrate in order to be admitted and fulfill the dental program, and thus, are required for advancement through and graduation from the program. To successfully complete the dental program at the University of Iowa, students must meet the following technical standards with or without a reasonable accommodation.

## **1. Sensory/Observation**

Students must be able to acquire defined levels of required information and skills as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic, behavioral, biomedical, and clinical sciences. A student must be able to observe patients accurately and understand verbal as well as non-verbal communication when assessing a patient.

The student must be able to:

- o Perform dental examinations and treatments that require sensory acuity.
- o See fine detail, focus at a variety of distances, and distinguish the differences and variations in color, shape, size, and texture of soft and hard tissues, including discerning accurate depth of field.
- o Employ tactile sensitivity to diagnose directly by palpation or indirectly by sensations transmitted through instruments.
- o Use visual acuity to read charts, evaluate radiographs, use computers, and watch videos.
- o Acquire information from written documents and evaluate information presented as images from paper, films, slides, photographs, or video.
- o Interpret radiographs and other (illustrative) images.

## **2. Cognitive**

A student must be able to use critical thinking skills to problem solve, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize. A student must be able to perform these problem solving skills in a timely fashion for effective patient treatment and as required in emergency clinical situations.

The student must also be able to:

- o Comprehend and mentally visualize three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- o Learn effectively through a variety of modalities, including but not limited to: classroom instruction, small group discussion, individual study of materials, preparation and presentation of written and oral reports, and use of computer-based technology.
- o Critically interpret and analyze scientific information and apply it to patient care.

## **3. Motor Skills**

A student must have sufficient motor function to execute movements essential to providing all necessary patient treatment. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements and equilibrium. This includes the use of motor skills for:

- o Performing palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic exercises.

- o Performing hard and soft tissue surgical procedures.
- o Coordination of gross and fine muscular movements.
- o Maintaining self-equilibrium.
- o Functional uses of the senses during dental procedures such as hearing, touch and vision.
- o The ability to operate controls for the use of high-speed or low-speed dental hand pieces within a limited spatial tolerance level.
- o The ability to use hand instrumentation for such procedures as scaling, root planning, and surgical interventions.
- o The ability to maintain an appropriate posture for extended time periods while providing safe dental care to the patient.

#### **4. Communication**

A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively, both verbally and in writing, with patients, faculty, staff and classmates in an effort to:

- o Convey or exchange information at a sufficient level that produces an accurate health history.
- o Identify health and treatment problems and provide alternative solutions and treatment options using evidence-based decision making skills.
- o Provide patient understandable directions during treatment and post-treatment.
- o Provide and understand effective and efficient instructions with all members of the health care team.

#### **5. Emotional and Behavioral**

A student must possess the physiological, psychological, and emotional health competencies essential for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities. This includes:

- o Exercising good judgment in a professional manner at all times including classroom, laboratory, clinical, and social situations.
- o Developing mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, colleagues, staff, and faculty.
- o Enduring physically and mentally challenging workloads and functioning effectively under stress.
- o Managing apprehensive patients with a range of behaviors in a respectful and congenial manner.
- o Accepting criticism and responding appropriately, including but not limited to behavior modification.

## 6. Ethics and Professionalism

A student must maintain the standards of conduct for ethics and professionalism as set forth in The American Dental Association's Code of Ethics, The ADEA Statement on Professionalism in Dental Education, the Collegiate Student Code of Conduct, and the CAPP Committee Procedure Manual. The Standards are as follows:

- o Autonomy- respecting the confidentiality of patients, faculty, staff and classmate's information and relationships as a demonstration of the value we place on individual autonomy. We acknowledge our obligation to justify any violation of confidence.
- o Non-maleficence- accepting our fundamental obligation to provide service in a manner that protects all patients and minimizes harm to them and others involved in their treatment.
- o Beneficence- recognizing the primary role is promoting the well-being of individuals and the public.
- o Justice- value justice and support fairness by demonstrating consistency and even-handedness in dealings with others.
- o Veracity- accepting our obligation to tell the truth and expect that others will do the same. We value self-knowledge and seek truth and honesty in all relationships.
- o Being accountable for one's actions, recognizing and acting upon the special obligations to others that one assumes in joining a profession.
- o Develop collaborative professional relationships and exchange knowledge to enhance our own lifelong professional development.
- o Acquiring and maintaining the high level of special knowledge, technical ability, and professional behavior necessary for the provision of clinical care to patients and for functioning in the dental education environment.
- o Being honest and demonstrating congruence between one's values, words, and actions.

Students are expected to relate to colleagues, faculty, staff, and patients honestly and respectfully and to not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. As stated in the University's Operations Manual. <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/community-policies/nondiscrimination-statement>

These technical standards are not all inclusive and may be updated, revised, or withdrawn at the discretion of the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics without notice.

**Requesting Reasonable Accommodations**

Students with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations in order to meet technical standards should refer to the Office of Student Affairs. Obtaining and financing personal devices, if approved as a reasonable accommodation, shall be the responsibility of the student. Reasonable accommodations shall not fundamentally alter a program or curriculum requirements, threaten the health or safety of others, or cause an undue financial or administrative burden.

**Certification**

I certify that I have read the University of Iowa, COD Technical Standards Form and understand that as part of the dental school curriculum I will be required to meet all of the above stated technical standards with or without accommodation.

Name: (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_