

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, MATRICULATION, PROGRESSION AND GRADUATION

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*Responsible administrator: Associate Dean for Academic Programs*

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The purpose of the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy's (AUSHOP) Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program is prepare students to become practice-ready pharmacists at the time of graduation. The AUHSOP's student pharmacists participate in active and engaged learning environments that involve students in team-based learning and patient care experiences throughout the Pharm.D. Program. Student pharmacists are required to have sufficient intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities to enable them to achieve the HSOP's defined professional competencies, function effectively in diverse learning activities and patient care environments, and provide effective and safe care to patients.

The following Technical Standards describe skills and abilities required for successful admission and progression through the AUHSOP's Pharm.D. program that extend beyond typical academic performance requirements. Student pharmacists are required to meet these standards at the time of admission/matriculation and continuously as they progress through the Pharm.D. program. Student pharmacists who are not able to meet the Technical Standards while enrolled may be required to take a leave of absence or withdrawal from the program.

Auburn University and the AUHSOP adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We are committed to assisting students with identified disabilities who are able to complete the Pharm.D. program with reasonable accommodations. However, the AUHSOP reserves the right to not admit applicants or continue enrollment of students in cases where reasonable accommodations are not available to allow successful completion of program requirements. Reasonable accommodations are those deemed to not alter the fundamental nature of the Pharm.D. program. Prospective students should evaluate themselves regarding compliance with these standards prior to submitting an application for admission to the AUHSOP.

**Communication:** Student pharmacists must be able to communicate proficiently in both verbal and written English in required educational and patient care contexts. Verbal communication skills must be sufficient so that student pharmacists can interact with student or health care team members and patients efficiently, effectively, and accurately within the time constraints required for a given educational or patient care interaction. Student pharmacists must be able to engage conversationally so that information received and delivered is mutually understood by all individuals involved. This includes the ability to listen, ask appropriate questions, gather information, and formulate and communicate appropriate responses as a health professions team member and during interactions with patients. Written communication skills must be sufficiently developed to facilitate professionally written communication in reports and patient care records, in a manner that is readily understood by the intended recipient, using proper grammar, spelling, and professional terminology.

**Sensory Skills and Motor Coordination/Function:**

Student pharmacists must have functioning sight, hearing and touch to enable assessment of a patient's condition, including receipt of verbal and non-verbal information. Sensory functioning must be sufficient to facilitate patient histories and physical assessments. In cases where students utilize adaptive technologies, they must be able to accurately perform all patient histories and physical assessments. Students must have the physical ability to perform basic tasks related to pharmacy and health care including, but not limited to:

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Basic physical assessment tests (e.g., blood pressure, respirations, heart rate, breath sounds)
- Laboratory tests (e.g., cholesterol measurement)
- Glucose measurement with glucometers
- Administration of immunizations and other injections
- Sterile and non-sterile compounding of products
- Writing or typing on a keyboard

### **Intellectual, Integrative, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Abilities:**

It is essential that the AUHSOP's student pharmacists have the ability to function in the School's fully integrated Pharm.D. program. This requires students pharmacists to apply knowledge to patient care and solve problems throughout the didactic and experiential portions of the curriculum. Student pharmacists must be able to adapt to various teaching, learning, and assessment strategies, conducted in various classroom and practice settings. They must have the ability to self-assess their learning, identify learning deficits, and take corrective action when improvement is needed.

### **Behavioral, Emotional, Social and Professional Attributes:**

Student pharmacists must possess emotional and mental health sufficient to allow them to complete a very challenging didactic and experiential curriculum. This includes the ability to function in stressful and changing environments while making timely and appropriate decisions. Student pharmacists must have emotional and social skills to interact professionally with faculty and staff members, fellow student pharmacists, other health professionals and their students, as well as patients and their caregivers.

Student pharmacists must be free from chemical or other impairments and maintain a valid internship license from the Alabama Board of Pharmacy and surrounding states in which they are completing practice experiences. Applicants for admission are encouraged to review the School's Chemical Impairment Policy.

AUHSOP Student Pharmacists are expected to conduct themselves professionally and adhere to the School's Code of Ethical Conduct and Professionalism Assessment Policies. Specific professional attributes are described in the School's "Tenets of Professionalism" document and include 1) responsibility, 2) honesty and integrity, 3) commitment to excellence, 4) respect for others, and 5) professional stewardship. The "Tenets of Professionalism" document provides an expanded description of each of these professional attributes. Prospective applicants are advised to review the School's academic and professional standards which are posted on its website.

### **Physical Health and Stamina:**

Student pharmacists must have the physical health and stamina to engage in vigorous professional doctoral program. Physical functioning must be sufficient to allow student pharmacists to complete all required academic and practice experiences. Class attendance is required of all student pharmacists and prolonged health issues can negatively impact completion of the Pharm.D. degree. Students with significant health problems are strongly urged to take leaves of absence until such time as the health problems resolve.

### **Technical Standards Administrative Processes**

The most likely time when a concern about an applicant's ability to meet the Technical Standards would become apparent is during the admissions process, particularly during the on-campus interview. Applicants will be informed of the Technical Standards during the interview process and will be instructed to contact the Associate Dean for Academic Programs if there is any reason why they cannot meet the Standards or require accommodations. As a condition of accepting an offer of admission, all entering students are required to review, and must agree to adhere to, all Harrison School of Pharmacy Standards, Policies and Codes of Conduct, which includes the Technical Standards.

Inquiries and concerns related to applicants and students being able to meet the Technical Standards may also arise in the following contexts:

- Prospective students inquiring about admission to the AUHSOP and noting that they need an accommodation to meet the standards:
- Applicants who have been admitted and subsequently request an accommodation before or after matriculation.
- Enrolled students who become unable to meet the technical standards after matriculation (this could be due to a severe accident or illness, or mental illness).

The Associate Dean for Academic Programs (ADAP) will refer all individuals requesting accommodations to the Office of Accessibility (OA), which will evaluate and make a decision on each request. In cases of requests for accommodations outside those that are usually provided to Pharm.D students, a Panel of Experts will review the requests and provide recommendations to the OA regarding the feasibility of specific student requests for accommodations. The Panel of Experts will include the following individuals:

- Director, AU Office of Accessibility (or his/her designee)
- Associate Dean for Academic Programs, AUHSOP
- Director of the Professional (Pharm.D.) Program, AUHSOP
- Executive Director of Clinical Affairs, AUHSOP
- Other professionals with specific expertise for a particular situation

The Panel of Experts will evaluate specific accommodation requests and provide recommendations to the OA regarding the feasibility and reasonableness of requested accommodations. A specific focus in the evaluation of accommodation requests will be whether or not the requested accommodation will fundamentally alter the nature of the Pharm.D. program.

The OA will communicate to the student decisions regarding accommodation requests. In cases where a request is approved, the AUHSOP will work with the OA to implement the approved accommodation. In cases where accommodation requests are denied, a decision will be made by the HSOP Dean's Office regarding whether the student is dismissed from the AUHSOP for not being able to meet the Technical Standards or is allowed to continue in the Program without the denied accommodation. This decision will be communicated by the ADAP.