

DOCUMENT TITLE:	IllinoisCOM Student Technical Standards
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SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:	All matriculants to the IllinoisCOM Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:	IllinoisCOM Office of the Dean, IllinoisCOM Office of Clinical Education, Office of Admissions, Office of the Dean of Student Success, Office for Student Accessibility
LAST AUDITED:	

PURPOSE

To establish the technical standards that a candidate for admission to the Illinois College of Osteopathic Medicine (IllinoisCOM) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program must be met with or without reasonable accommodations.

DEFINITIONS

- Candidate
 - Any individual considered for admission to IllinoisCOM.
 - Any current IllinoisCOM osteopathic medical students who are candidates for retention, promotion, or graduation
- Technical Standards
 - The intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities and personal competencies needed to complete the curriculum and achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty.

POLICY

- A candidate for admission to the Illinois College of Osteopathic Medicine (IllinoisCOM) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program must have the intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities, either independently or with reasonable accommodations, to acquire the knowledge, technical skills, and competencies required to complete the curriculum and pursue a career in osteopathic medicine. These essential abilities are prerequisites for matriculation, progression, and graduation from IllinoisCOM.
- The Chicago School and IllinoisCOM approaches technical standards and accommodations on a non-discriminatory basis that is consistent with our missions and values.
- Reasonable accommodations will be considered in accordance with the University's ADA/Section 504 Policy and Procedure. IllinoisCOM is committed to fostering an equitable learning environment while maintaining the integrity of its curriculum and ensuring that all essential elements necessary for the practice of osteopathic medicine are preserved. Requests for accommodation that would fundamentally alter IllinoisCOM's academic programs, services, or activities, or that would impose an undue hardship on the program, will not be approved.
- Throughout the program, a student will be expected to maintain the technical standards and personal competencies outlined below and demonstrate these through their coursework, interaction with peers and faculty, and in their



professional experiences.

PROCEDURE

1. Technical Standards and Personal Competencies

Graduation from the DO program signifies that the individual is prepared for entry into graduate medical education (GME), meets all requirements for osteopathic medical licensure, and possesses broad undifferentiated general knowledge in medicine and the basic skills required for the practice of osteopathic medicine. It therefore follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills needed to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and be able to render a wide spectrum of osteopathic medical patient care.

The practice of medicine in general, and osteopathic medicine, in particular, requires the performance of specific essential functions and possession of certain skills that fall into broad categories, some of which are defined below. The following technical standards, along with academic standards, are requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. Under all circumstances, a candidate should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without reasonable accommodation.

The candidate must be able to integrate, consistently, quickly and accurately, all information received by whatever sense(s) employed. In addition, the individual must have the intellectual ability to learn, analyze, synthesize, and apply various types of information in a self-directed manner within the context of patient-centered decisions across a broad spectrum of medical situations and settings. The avowed intention of an individual student to practice only a narrow part of clinical medicine, or to pursue a non-clinical career, does not alter the requirement that all medical students take and achieve competence in the full IllinoisCOM curriculum.

2. Observation

Candidates must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and microscopic laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

Included below is a table containing relevant examples specific to this competency area. This table does not limit or otherwise restrict the standard that candidates are responsible for meeting and/or performing the skills and abilities defined in this area, irrespective of whether a specific expectation and/or example is included in this table. The examples presented are for illustrative and informational purposes only and are not intended to be an exhaustive listing of requirements.

Expectation	Examples
Possess sufficient uncorrected or corrected visual acuity and color perception to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand for proper evaluation and treatment:	<p>Locate and identify dissected nerves</p> <p>Evaluate posture, locomotion and movement in a clinical setting</p> <p>Identify landmarks on tympanic membranes</p> <p>Identify materials correctly to be used in laboratories</p> <p>Locate, identify and describe foreign bodies, blood vessels, sutures and skin lesions</p> <p>Read printed materials on handouts, exams and computer screens</p> <p>Discriminate body height and depth differences and identify anatomic landmarks for symmetry and postural differences visually</p>

3. Communication

Candidates must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues. They must demonstrate sufficient oral and written English proficiency to communicate effectively and safely with patients, faculty, and the health care team in clinical and educational settings.

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Expectation	Examples
Must demonstrate sufficient oral and written English proficiency to communicate effectively and safely with patients, faculty, and the health care team in clinical and educational settings.	<p>Demonstrate command of the course material to a professor or attending physician</p> <p>Comprehend oral lectures, ask questions and comprehend answers</p> <p>Explain procedures and discuss results with professors and fellow students</p> <p>Explain medical conditions to patients, attending physicians and fellow students</p> <p>Explain procedures and discuss test results on prescribed treatments with patients, attending physicians and fellow students</p> <p>Comprehend laboratory safety and emergency situation instructions</p> <p>Be able to effectively compose written communication, including documentation of patient history, physical exam, assessment and treatment plan</p>
Perceive and convey sentiments non-verbally and effectively with patients and all members of the healthcare team	Recognize, comprehend, and respond appropriately to spoken or non-verbal communication of distress or discomfort

5. Motor

Candidates must have sufficient motor functions to enable them to execute movements that are reasonably required to provide general and emergency treatment of patients (i.e. palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and therapeutic modalities). These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Additionally, candidates and students must possess sufficient posture, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength, and endurance for standing, sitting, and participating in the laboratory, classroom, and clinical experiences.

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Expectation	Examples
Possess equilibrium and coordination of gross and fine muscular movements	<p>Possess sufficient strength and mobility to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients including CPR, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, assist with surgical procedures (i.e., handing off of instruments, perform retraction), perform simple obstetrical maneuvers, and perform OMT</p> <p>Coordinate fine movement of fingertips, palms, and wrists as in elevation of the cranium</p> <p>Stand with limited opportunity for gross movement for a minimum of 2 hours at a time, as necessary for particular medical procedures, such as performance of obstetrical delivery, assistance of surgical delivery, and assistance of surgical procedure</p>
Possess sufficient visual-motor coordination permitting delicate manipulations of specimens, instruments, and equipment	<p>Participate in laboratory exercises using required equipment</p> <p>Perform minor medical procedures such as venipuncture and suturing.</p>

6. Sensory

Candidates must have enhanced sensory skills including accuracy within specific tolerances and functional use for laboratory, classroom, and clinical experiences. Candidates and students who are otherwise qualified but who have significant tactile, sensory, or proprioceptive disabilities must be medically evaluated. Examples of issues requiring further evaluation include, but are not limited to, individuals injured by significant burns, those with sensory motor deficits, cicatrix formation, or absence and/or malformations of the extremity(ies).

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Expectation	Examples
Possess accurate sense of touch and temperature discrimination	Palpate the musculoskeletal system Perform history and physical examination procedures specific to an individual Perform a bimanual pelvic exam Palpate distances in depth, elevation and width of body structures Palpate texture differences, hydration states, fine muscle tension differences, changes in moisture and temperature
Auditory and Visual Senses	The ability to use a stethoscope Recognize structures and patient conditions accurately

7. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities
Candidates must demonstrate problem-solving skills, which involve intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities. These abilities include memory, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. In addition, candidates must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and be able to understand and manipulate the spatial relationships of structures.

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Expectation	Examples
Be able to process multifunctional data and sensory input requiring cognitive recall and motor skills rapidly and initiate critical actions	Perform osteopathic or medical evaluation of patient posture and movement including analysis of physiological, biomechanical, behavioral, and environmental factors in a timely manner, consistent with acceptable clinical norms Comprehend oral and written presentations of material and communicate that understanding upon examination in a timely manner, occasionally demonstrating a grasp of the information within the same class period as presented Successfully complete objective exams designed to assess whether students can apply knowledge learned and successfully complete problem-solving exercises Evaluate emergency situations including apnea, respiratory or cardiac arrest, bleeding and severe



	trauma, requiring rapid responses such as intubation and medication
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8. Behavioral, Professional, and Social Attributes

Candidates must possess the professionalism required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities. They must show evidence that they can exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities involved in the education process and attend to the assessment and care of patients. Candidates must also demonstrate that they can develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with faculty, staff, colleagues, and patients. Additionally, they must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in in-patient care. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are some of the personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

Additionally, IllinoisCOM maintains a curriculum that stresses the importance of the body as a unit and the applicability of touch as an integral part of diagnosis and treatment for all patients of all genders. To acquire competencies in physical diagnosis and osteopathic manipulative medical diagnosis and treatment. All candidates are expected to participate in physical examination and osteopathic manipulative training, which typically involves touching and being touched in non-sexual contexts and may include serving as a patient model. Requests for modification based on disability, or other protected grounds will be considered through the University's accommodation process to determine if essential curricular objectives can be met in an alternative manner. Candidates are required to assume the role of the patient to develop an understanding of the patient's experience throughout the curriculum. This includes permitting self and demonstrating on others physical exams such as abdominal, cardiac and musculoskeletal, osteopathic structural exams, osteopathic diagnosis, and osteopathic manipulative treatment.

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Expectation	Examples
Manage priorities successfully, including competing demands and multiple tasks under time constraints	Maintain satisfactory academic progress including completing exams and other time-sensitive assessments and requirements, including patient care and attending mandatory classes, laboratory sessions and educational programs

Exhibit appropriate behavior, judgment and ethical standards	Active participation in and contribution to learning situations Maintain professional communications and interactions with faculty, staff, classmates, patients, and all members of the health care team Adhere to the Standards of Professionalism and Ethics as described in the University and College Catalogs and other documents
Adapt successfully to changing environments	Maintain attention, actively participate and meaningfully contribute to dialog and practical applications in the classroom, small group exercises, laboratory activities, and in-patient care
Possess constructive, positive and mature interpersonal skills, interest and motivation	Accept criticism and respond with appropriate modification of behavior Timely and adequately respond to personal or academic struggles; seek assistance, practice planning and avoid procrastination
Participate as both a student patient and a student physician in the learning environment	Allow for exposure and palpation of non- sexual body parts when serving as a student patient in the learning environment Expose and palpate non-sexual body parts when serving as a student physician in the learning environment Participate in learning, including dissection of human donor cadaver if required

9. Physical Health

To ensure compliance with the respective state's public health requirements and exhibit exemplary commitment to the rights and integrity of all parties in the education of health care professional students, IllinoisCOM has established medical status credentialing requirements that must be completed prior to matriculation. In addition to the personal competencies listed above, candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree also must comply with applicable public health requirements and institutional policies regarding communicable diseases, as determined by individualized assessment in accordance with CDC and applicable public health guidance. Medical status credentialing is designed to ensure that patient safety is not compromised while protecting the rights and safety of students. For detailed information, contact the Department of Student Affairs.

Special Note: It is the policy of IllinoisCOM to provide equal opportunities for all applicants and students with respect to admission, financial aid, and access to education programs, services and activities, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, or medical condition. The intent of this policy is to provide each student with the opportunity to excel academically, while creating an equitable environment conducive to learning. In doing so, IllinoisCOM must maintain





the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge in all areas of osteopathic medicine, including the demonstration of basic skills required for the practice of osteopathic medicine. Any student accepted to IllinoisCOM who believes themselves to have a mental and/or physical disability must bring this information and all supporting documentation to the Office for Student Accessibility.

10. Accommodations

Candidates with disabilities or additional needs are encouraged to contact the Office for Student Accessibility early in the application process to begin a conversation about what accommodations they may need to meet these standards. Fulfillment of the technical standards for graduation from medical school does not guarantee that a graduate will be able to fulfill the technical requirements of any specific residency program. Additional information can be found on [The Chicago School Student Gateway](#).

REFERENCES

- COCA Standard 9.1
- The Chicago School ADA/Section 504 Policy and Procedure
- Technical Standards Acknowledgement
- Accessibility Accommodations Request Form

