



OHSU POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number: 02-70-010

Policy Title: OHSU TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Effective Date: March 5, 2021

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1. Policy Statement

Academic Programs in the Health Sciences have a societal responsibility to train competent healthcare providers and scientists that demonstrate critical judgement, extensive knowledge and well-honed technical skills. This policy is to ensure that all candidates for an OHSU degree or certificate possess the essential skills and abilities necessary to complete the curriculum successfully. To be qualified for and continue enrollment in OHSU Academic Programs, prospective and current students shall meet both OHSU's academic standards and the technical standards. Prospective and current students with disabilities may utilize approved reasonable accommodations to meet academic and technical standards.

A. OHSU Technical Standards

OHSU technical standards include nonacademic criteria that reflect the ability to:

- Acquire information from experiences and demonstrations conveyed through online coursework, lecture, group seminar, small group activities, and other formats.
- Recognize, understand and interpret required instruction materials including written documents, computer-information systems, and non-book resources.
- Manipulate the equipment, instruments, apparatus, or tools required to collect and interpret data appropriate to the domain of study, practice or research.
- Follow universal precautions against contamination and cross contamination with infectious pathogens, toxins and other hazardous chemicals.
- Solve problems and think critically to develop appropriate products and services (e.g., treatment plan, a scientific experiment).
- Synthesize information to develop and defend conclusions regarding observations and outcomes.
- Use intellectual ability, exercise proper judgement and complete all responsibilities within a timeframe that is appropriate to a given setting.
- Communicate effectively and maintain, mature sensitive and effective relationships with all persons including but not limited to clients, patients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals.
- Operate in a safe manner and respond appropriately to emergencies and urgencies.
- Demonstrate emotional stability to function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in clinical and professional practice, healthcare, and biomedical sciences and engineering.

B. Technical Standards for Academic Programs

In addition to OHSU technical standards, Academic Programs may develop program level technical standards. All Academic Program technical standards are developed and vetted by each school or college, and recommended to the Office of the Provost for approval.

Changes in program level technical standards must be submitted to and approved by the Office of the Provost in accordance with the requirements of Policy 02-50-010, Proposing Curriculum Modifications.

2. Definitions

Academic Program. A unique course of study that culminates in the awarding of a specific degree or certificate in combination with a specific major. An academic program is characterized by: (i) a coherent and specialized body of knowledge, methods and skills; (ii) a faculty-designed curricular path; (iii) faculty identification with an organized instructional effort in a subject matter area; (iv) increasing complexity in curricular content during the student's period of study; and (v) specified learning outcomes or competency levels expected of program graduates.

3. Responsibilities

- A. Academic Programs are responsible for making technical standards available on their program website and in their student handbook to ensure socialization of the technical standards to both prospective and current students.
- B. Prior to matriculation, students must attest to their Academic Program that they are able to satisfy technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.
- C. Students are responsible for notifying their Academic Program if they are no longer able to satisfy technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

4. Procedures

Admission and academic progression are conditional on the prospective or current student's ability to satisfy the technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations.

- A. Prospective and current students who have a disability and would like to request an accommodation should contact the Office for Student Access (OSA). It is the responsibility of an individual with a disability to self-identify and request accommodations from OSA in a timely manner (accommodations are not retroactive). Prospective and current students are also responsible for providing documentation of their disability from a qualified medical professional in accordance with OSA's documentation requirements.

- B. Should a current student have or develop a condition that would place patients, the student or others at risk, or impact their need for accommodation, an evaluation with the Academic Program and OSA may be necessary. As in initial assessments, a complete and careful consideration of all the skills, attitudes and attributes of each individual will be performed. This includes an assessment of their ability to complete the Academic Program degree requirements and will be informed by the knowledge that students with varied types of disabilities have the ability to become successful health science professionals.

Implementation Date: October 30, 2010

Revision History: May 31, 2012, March 5, 2021

Related Policies and Procedures: [02-01-002, Equal Access for Students with Disabilities](#); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendments

Responsible Office: Office for Student Access, academicpolicy@ohsu.edu

Supersedes: CAP Policy 0-04-0612

Key Words: Admissions, access, disability accommodations, technical standards, essential skills and abilities, criteria for admissions.