

SAFETY AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Introduction:

The mission of the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) is to provide the broadest access to the highest level of intellectual excellence, to create knowledge that transforms our views of the world, and through sharing and application, transforms the world. UIC is focused on eliminating disparities in health, education, and economic opportunity. Community engagement is a centerpiece of UIC's urban mission. Furthermore, UIC is committed to increasing access to education, employment, programs and services for all and maintaining a barrier-free environment for individuals with disabilities. UIC collaborates with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility throughout the educational experience.

The UIC College of Dentistry provides the following technical standards to inform incoming and enrolled students of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the curriculum and provide effective and safe health care. Students who enroll should have the ability to meet technical standards, (with reasonable accommodations as needed), and maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards for progression through the program. If you have questions about the standards as outlined below, please contact [Dr. Darryl Pendleton](#). Should you need reasonable accommodation to meet these requirements, contact the Disability Resource Center at the contact information provided below.

Applicants and students must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of the education. In the process, the student is required to treat patients of the UIC-COD. The UIC-COD is responsible for ensuring the safety of the patients. This includes the completion of treatment safely and within acceptable time limits. The UIC-COD Safety and Technical Standards are based upon the model developed by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Section on Dental School Admissions Officers in conjunction with the ADEA General Counsel (J Dental Education 1998: 62:387-390). The statements below are modified to reflect essential functions in the UIC-COD program. The UIC-COD is committed to the principle of diversity in all areas. Admission is based upon published criteria and is open to all qualified individuals. The UIC-COD complies with Sect. 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applicants are required to complete this Safety and Technical Standards form.

Criteria: Students matriculating in and graduating from the UIC-COD must be able to meet the technical requirements of the academic program and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, attending dentists, or themselves. Therefore, the UIC-COD has determined that students must be able to perform the essential functions listed below with or without accommodation.

I. Observation: A candidate must be able to attain a defined level of essential information as presented through lectures, readings, demonstrations and experiences in the biomedical and dental sciences. Furthermore, a candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe and appreciate nonverbal communications when performing dental operations or administering medications.

- Observe/participate in demonstrations/experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, human dissection, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and normal/pathologic tissues;
- Observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand; observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision and somatic sensation and is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell;
- *Ability to discern* small increments (0.25 mm) and possess visual depth perception (discern angles and depths measured in mm and 2-5 degrees) for performing dental examinations, performing dental procedures and evaluating treatment outcomes; read x-rays; discern changes in color, texture and translucency of oral tissues;
- Perform the customary techniques used in a physical/oral examination such as auscultation and palpation (feeling various body parts such as neck and tongue with the ability to discern the size, shape, and consistency of masses).

II. Coordination and Dexterity: Candidates and students ordinarily should have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and treatment of patients.

- Elicit patient information by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers;
- Perform dental procedures such as tooth preparation and root canal therapy (measured in increments as small as 0.25 mm), extractions and the administration of dental anesthetic; carry out diagnostic procedures (periodontal probing, and examination of teeth for caries); and evaluate treatment outcomes. Instruments utilized for these procedures will include high and low speed dental handpieces, scalpels and small hand instruments;
- Operate foot controls utilizing fine movements;

- Transfer and position disabled patients, and position and reposition self around the patient and chair in a sitting or standing position;
- Execute motor movements required to provide emergency treatment to patients, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Above listed actions *may* require coordination of both gross and very fine muscular movements or equilibrium or functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

III. Communication: A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients; convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; answer questions and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. Communication includes speech and writing.

- *Communicate* and observe patients in order to conduct patient interviews, elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and receive nonverbal communications;
- *Communicate with* people so as to make assessments and plans known to others on the health care team;
- Communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients, colleagues and members of the health care team.
- The ability to learn, and contribute to the learning of others, through collaboration with peers.

IV. Intellectual Reasoning: A candidate must be able to acquire information, memorize, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, integrate and problem solve in a timely manner and as is necessary both in dental education and practice;

- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures;
- Perform quickly and effectively emergency procedures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of emergency medications and coordination of the health care team.

V. Behavior, Social Abilities and Health: Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients.

- Develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients;
- Manage apprehensive patients with a range of moods in a tactful and congenial manner;
- Accept critical feedback and respond by appropriate modification of behavior;
- Tolerate physically taxing workloads; function effectively under stress; withstand the rigors of dental education and practice; adapt to changing environments; display flexibility; function in the face of uncertainties inherent in dentistry. Both dental education and practice may entail physical, mental and emotional stress such as long hours, close patient contact and treating seriously ill patients.

Conclusion

UIC is committed to full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of university life. Per the [Student Accommodation Policy](#)¹ students who face or anticipate disability-related barriers related to meeting the above technical standards should connect with the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\) at \[drc.uic.edu\]\(mailto:drc@uic.edu\), \[drc@uic.edu\]\(mailto:drc@uic.edu\), or at \(312\) 413-2183](#) to create a plan for reasonable accommodations.

The implementation of accommodations is in an interactive and iterative process, meaning that during this process the DRC may seek information from appropriate University personnel regarding essential standards for courses, degree programs, and/or activities; conversely, University personnel may seek information from the DRC regarding how best to facilitate a student's accommodations in their program. All student disability information, including documentation of disability, will be kept secure and confidential by the Disability Resource Center and is not released to others at the University without the student's express permission.

In the event that an accommodation as written is determined to be unreasonable or inappropriate for a certain course or program, efforts will be made by the DRC and the program to explore a suitable alternative reasonable accommodation where possible. Students may appeal accommodation decisions based on the DRC [Accommodations Complaint Process](#).

A non-comprehensive list of commonly approved accommodations is available on the DRC's [Guide to Accommodations](#), though determinations are always made on a case by case basis and may look different in a clinical or applied setting.

The UIC-COD has determined that students must be able to perform the above listed essential functions with or without accommodation. Requests for accommodation should be initiated with the University of Illinois at Chicago Disability Resource Center: 1200 W. Harrison Street, Room 1190, SSB (MC 321), Voice (312) 413-2183, Video Phone (312) 957-4822, Chicago, IL 60607. Website: www.drc.uic.edu

Certification:

I certify that I have read the UIC –COD Safety and 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 first and last name)

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return the completed form to Braulia Espinosa or Natalie Mendez, 801 S. Paulina, Rm. 104, Chicago, IL 60612

Updated and approved by DRC 11/2022
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