

Essential Functions for Admissions, Matriculation, Promotion and Graduation

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to the admissions and matriculation of qualified candidates who represent our diverse national population. We strive to select candidates who can satisfy the academic and performative standards, meet the essential functions, and are well prepared to enter residency and complete licensure requirements. We are also committed to fostering an inclusive and accessible environment for all students and ensuring that students have access to all university facilities, technology, and information needed to have an equal opportunity to succeed in their education.

Because the DO degree signifies that the holder of such a degree is prepared for entry into the practice of medicine within postgraduate training programs, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. To carry out the activities described below, candidates for the DO degree must be able to develop deep foundational knowledge of medicine, the ability to apply outstanding clinical skills, effective and efficient data interpretation skills, and clinical decision-making across a broad spectrum of medical situations in all settings. Critical skills needed for the successful navigation of didactic and clinical experiences are outlined below.

Observation

Candidates and students must be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic sciences, including but not limited to the dissection of cadavers, examination of specimens in anatomy, pathology, and neuroanatomy, microscopic study of both normal and pathologic organisms and tissues. Candidates and students will be required to observe a patient accurately, interpret radiographs and other graphic images and digital or analog representations of physiological phenomena (such as EKG's), assess findings, and develop a diagnostic and treatment plan. Consistent with being able to assess asymmetry, and range of motion, and tissue texture changes, it is necessary to have adequate observational capabilities for proper evaluation and treatment integration. The observation and information acquisition will require candidates and students to have functional, visual, auditory and somatic sensations, enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities.

Communication

Candidates and students must be able to communicate effectively with patients, their families, colleagues, and all members of the healthcare team. They must be able to establish a therapeutic relationship with patients, obtain a medical history, record information accurately, maintain comprehensive and timely medical records, and communicate effectively in speech, writing and listening in various patient settings.

Motor

Candidates and students should have the capacity to perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures required to provide patients with general care, emergency care, and osteopathic treatment. Students should be able to assist patients in positioning for osteopathic procedures. They must adhere to universal precaution measures and meet safety standards applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings and other clinical activities.

Professionalism

Candidates and students 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. Compassion, integrity, ethical standards, concern for others, appropriate hygiene and appearance, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes. Candidates and students must also be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and schedules and adapt to chaotic environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates must have sufficient cognitive abilities and effective learning techniques to assimilate the detailed and complex information presented in the medical student curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; use of computer technology; medical simulation; clinical encounters; coaching; and personal reflection. Candidates must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and communicate their knowledge and reasoning. They must recognize and draw conclusions about three-dimensional spatial relationships and logical sequential relationships among events. They must be able to formulate and test hypotheses consistent with the scientific method that enables effective and timely problem-solving in diagnosis and treatment of patients in a variety of clinical modalities. They must be able to make timely, prudent, informed, and defensible decisions in the best interests of patients.

Inability to Perform Essential Functions and Students with Impairments

If a student's behavior or performance deviates significantly from the requirements of the Essential Functions or suggests that the student may not be able to fulfill all the Essential Functions, the School shall designate an appropriate official(s) to engage in a dialogue with the student. Such dialogue shall explore whether resources are available to assist the student, whether an evaluation by an objective health care provider or other evaluator is appropriate, and whether the student is otherwise qualified to participate in the academic program, with or without reasonable accommodations. The student may be required to obtain evaluation and/or testing by a health care provider or other appropriate evaluator designated by the School and to provide the results to the campus Student HealthService or Student Wellness Program to determine whether the student is fit to pursue the educational program. If the student is deemed able to fulfill all Essential Functions, the School reserves the right to require actions recommended by the health care provider or other evaluator, including further testing, counseling, monitoring, leave of absence, or such other requirements as the School deems appropriate. If the School official who conducts the dialogue with the student concludes that the student is not able to fulfill all of the Essential Functions, the official may recommend that the student request a leave of absence or withdraw from the School. If the student does not request a leave of absence or withdraw, the official may refer the matter to the School committee authorized to make recommendations concerning student academic standing. The committee shall conduct a review in accordance with its academic hearing procedures and shall make a recommendation to the Dean as to whether the student should be dismissed due to inability to fulfill the Essential Functions. The Dean shall consider the committee's

recommendation and render a final decision in accordance with the School's 30 procedures for review of academic actions. If the School official who conducts the dialogue determines that the student's conduct or statements seriously interfere with the University's missions or jeopardize the safety and/or welfare of the student and/or others, or constitute a threat to property, the School may place the student on Involuntary Leave of Absence or Involuntary Withdrawal without referring the matter to the School committee, pursuant to applicable Rowan University and School policies and procedures.

Admitted and/or enrolled candidates with disabilities are encouraged to reach out to our Accessibility Service staff where their request will be confidentially reviewed to determine what reasonable accommodations or alternative mechanisms could permit the candidate to satisfy the standards. If you are an applicant with a disability who may require accommodations in our program, you are welcome to reach out to Jackie Giacobbe at giacobja@rowan.edu or 856-566-6980 for a confidential consultation. Additional information is also available on the Academic Affairs website: <https://som.rowan.edu/education/academic/disability.html#disabilities>