

## Technical Standards - Essential Functions for Admissions, Matriculation, Promotion, and Graduation A3.13e

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to selecting candidates who can satisfy the academic and performative standards, meet the technical standards, and are well prepared for residency and licensure. We are also dedicated to fostering an inclusive, accessible environment, ensuring all students have equal access to necessary resources for success.

Because the Master of Physician Assistant Studies 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 and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. In order to carry out the activities described below, candidates for the PA degree must be able to consistently, quickly and accurately integrate all information received, and have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

All students in the Program must meet the Program's technical standards for enrollment (A3.13e.) Students must possess the "physical, cognitive and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and for entry into the profession." (ARC-PA Standards, Fifth Edition, p. 23.) A candidate for the PA degree must have these technical skills, including: observation, communication, motor, conceptualization, integrative and quantitative, and behavioral and social. Accommodation is available to assist with a variety of disabilities. Under all circumstances, a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. Therefore, ordinarily, the use of an intermediary in the clinical setting is not permitted.

The PA Program Technical Standards are on the PA department website at <https://som.rowan.edu/documents/pa-technical-standards-essential-functions.pdf>. These technical standards are not intended to deter any prospective student for whom reasonable accommodation will allow access to the curriculum.

A student whose behavior or performance raises questions concerning his or her ability to fulfill the technical standards may be required to obtain evaluation and/or testing by a health care provider designated by the School, and to provide the results to the campus Student Health Service for the purpose of determining whether the student is fit to pursue the educational program. If the student is deemed fit to pursue the program, the School reserves the right to require actions recommended by the health care provider.

### **Observation**

Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic sciences. This will require the candidate to observe material at a distance and close-at-hand (such as overhead projections and slides) and organisms and structures through a microscope. Candidates and students will be required to



observe a patient accurately at a distance and close-at-hand and to interpret radiographs and other graphic images and digital or analog representations of physiological phenomena (such as EKG's). Consistent with being able to assess asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue texture changes, it is necessary to have adequate visual 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 in English with faculty, other care workers, other students, and patients. They must be able to directly communicate effectively with patients in speech, writing and listening.

### **Motor**

Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide patients with general care, emergency treatment, and osteopathic treatment. This requires proper posture, upper and lower extremity strength and adequate tactile sensory ability. Students should be able to assist patients in positioning for osteopathic procedures. Students must be able to maintain all physical, behavioral, and cognitive skills needed to become an osteopathic physician.

### **Professionalism**

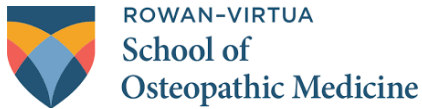
Candidates and students must demonstrate the ability to exercise good judgment, promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients.

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 to adapt to chaotic environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.

Additionally, Rowan-Virtua SOM maintains a curriculum that stresses the importance of the body as a unit and the applicability of palpation as an integral part of diagnosis and treatment for all patients. To acquire competencies in physical diagnosis and osteopathic manipulative medical diagnosis and treatment, as well as to maintain empathy for patients, all students are required to examine and practice clinical skills on others and serve as the "patient" who will be examined and have clinical skills performed on them by their classmates. Students are required to assume the role of the patient to develop an understanding of the patient's experience throughout the curriculum. This includes but is not limited to permitting self and demonstrating on others physical exams such as abdominal, cardiac and musculoskeletal, osteopathic structural exams, osteopathic diagnosis, and osteopathic manipulative treatment. This is a core learning objective.

### **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**



These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities.

### Accommodations

All students, employees and applicants have equal opportunity at Rowan-Virtua SOM. Discrimination against applicants and students due to any category protected by applicable law, including but not limited to disability and religion, is prohibited. Therefore, Rowan-Virtua SOM will, if requested, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified enrolled students and candidates with disabilities or religious restrictions unless: a) such accommodations impose an undue hardship to the institution, or b) direct threats of substantial harm to the health and safety of others due to the disability cannot be eliminated by any reasonable accommodations available that would allow the student to perform the technical standards, or c) such accommodations fundamentally alter the educational program or academic standards. Requests to be excused from the requirement to treat patients of another sex will not be considered a reasonable accommodation. Students will be judged during the course of study on their acquisition of the knowledge necessary for the practice of medicine, their ability to perform the aforementioned technical skills, and their physical and behavioral capacities to meet the full requirements of the school's curriculum.

Admitted and/or enrolled candidates with disabilities are encouraged to reach out to our Accessibility Service staff at 856-566-6980 to schedule a confidential consultation.