

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, PROMOTION AND GRADUATION

The practice of acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is intellectually, physically, and psychologically demanding. A practitioner of acupuncture and Oriental Medicine must be able to assess, diagnose, and perform treatments while providing appropriate emergency care, and collaborate with other health care providers. Students acquire the foundation of knowledge, attitudes, skills, and professional behaviors needed throughout the acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioner's professional career. These academic competencies, that acupuncture and Oriental Medical practitioners must possess to practice safely, are reflected in the technical standards that follow.

The curriculum leading to the Master of Science in Oriental Medicine or Master of Science in Acupuncture degree requires students to engage in diverse, complex, and specific experiences essential to the acquisition and practice of essential healthcare provider skills and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions. The settings in which these functions must be performed may change without notice, as is inherent in clinical practice. These functions may be required to be performed under stressful and unpredictable conditions. In addition to being essential requirements for the successful completion of degree programs, these functions are necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients, fellow students, faculty, staff and other health care providers and are based on skills and abilities that are required to perform the duties of an acupuncturist. For more information on the core job tasks and working environment, see the Occupational Information Network provided by the US Department of Labor/Employment and Training at <http://www.onetonline.org/link/details/29-1199.01>.

With reasonable accommodation as provided by law, candidates and students in the Master of Science in Oriental Medicine or Master of Science in Acupuncture degree must be able to meet these minimum standards. These standards, in addition to the standards of academic conduct set forth under "Student Conduct" stating on page 41 of this manual, comprise the basis for all evaluation within the college and include but are not limited to the following abilities:

STANDARDS

Motor

A student must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A student must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide routine and emergency care and treatment to patients. Students must be able to execute movements required to provide safe, general, and therapeutic care including patient positioning, patient draping, insertion of needles, manipulation of other modalities such as cupping, plum blossoming, and

moxibustion, and safely dispose of/ or sterilize any materials that may contain bloodborne pathogens. These skills require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and the integrated use of touch and vision.

Observation

Observation requires the functional use of vision, hearing, and somatic sensations. A student must be able to observe lectures, practical demonstrations, and differentiate Chinese herbs. The student must be able to observe a patient accurately and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing an assessment, an intervention or administering a treatment. The student must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. Examples in which these observational skills are required include: but are not limited to: palpation of peripheral pulses, bony prominences, and ligamentous structures; visual and tactile examination for areas of inflammation, patient coloration, demeanor, and affect, and visual and tactile evaluation of the presence and degree of edema.

Communication

Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other professionals. A student must express his or her ideas and feelings constructively and clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. Students must communicate with patients in order to elicit information regarding mood, activity, and posture and to perceive nonverbal communications. Students must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with other members of the health care community to convey information essential for safe and effective care. Communication includes but is not limited to speech, hearing, reading, and writing. A student must be able to convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history, identify problems presented, explain alternative solutions, and give directions during treatment and post-treatment.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

To effectively solve problems, students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information in a timely fashion. A student must be able to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a patient's history, physical findings, and diagnostic studies. Students must be able to use this information to engage in critical thinking, develop a diagnosis and to monitor treatment plans and modalities.

Cognitive Behavioral and Psycho-Social Attributes

Students must possess the psychological ability and emotional health required for the full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. Students must have the capacity for the development of mature, sensitive, appropriate, and effective relationships with patients. Students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. The student must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that

empathy. The candidate must know that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others. The student must be able and willing to examine and change his or her behavior when it interferes with productive individual or team relationships. A student must be able to take direction from faculty, supervisors, staff and administration.

Professional Conduct

Students must demonstrate the ability for moral reasoning and practice health care in an ethical manner. Students must be willing to learn and abide by professional standards of practice. Students must possess attitudes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, tolerance and acceptance. Students must be able to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients and vulnerable adults.

Curriculum Requirements

In addition to the abilities specified above, students must be able to successfully complete, with reasonable accommodation as provided by law, all required components of the curriculum, including the learning objectives in each class.

Tests and Evaluations

In order to evaluate competence, Southwest Acupuncture College employs periodic examinations, both written and practical, as an essential component of the curriculum. Successful completion of these examinations is required of all students as a condition for continued progress through the curriculum. Reasonable accommodation will be provided for qualified students during administration of evaluations according to the Accommodation Policy.

Clinical Assessments

Demonstration of clinical competence is fundamental to the career of the student. The process of evaluation of the clinical performance of the student is an integral and essential component of the curriculum. Although reasonable accommodation will be made, participation in clinical experiences and the evaluation of that participation is required.

Reasonable Accommodation

It is the policy of Southwest Acupuncture College to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a documented disability so they can meet these technical standards. Whether or not a requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on an individual basis. Determining what is a reasonable accommodation is an interactive process initiated by the prospective student or student with the Disability Coordinator.