



PONCE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Medical Students
FROM: Admissions Office

SUBJECT: POLICY ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Enclosed you will find Ponce Health Sciences University Admission Policy on Technical Standards. We request you carefully read this policy, sign, and return to this form to the Admissions Office. If you have any questions, please contact or visit the Admissions Office.

CERTIFICATION

I have read Ponce Health Sciences University Policy on Technical Standards. I certify by my signature that to the best of my knowledge I do not have any physical limitation that will impair the completion of the full curriculum required courses and electives established under Ponce School of Medicine policies.

Name (Print)

Signature

Date

P.O. Box 7004 Ponce, Puerto Rico 00732 • 395 Zona Industrial 2 Ponce, Puerto Rico 00716-2348



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PONCE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS POLICY ON TECHNICAL STANDARDS & ADA

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED AT PONCE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY (PHSU).

All applicants accepted to PHSU must be able to meet the School's technical standards. Students are asked to review the standards and to sign a form certifying that they have read and understood them and are able to meet the standards.

PHSU applauds the important strides made by handicapped individuals to overcome their physical limitations. Consequently, PHSU deplors denial for admission to handicapped individuals unless there is genuine cause. Therefore, to insure careful and individual attention to the needs of each applicant and to insure that PHSU upholds its responsibilities to society, the following policy is in effect.

The curriculum, as established by the faculty, represents a core curriculum which is essential to all students. Therefore, PHSU expects that each student admitted is capable of completing the full curriculum of required courses and electives under the established policies. In the admission of students, all individuals are considered on the basis of academic and personal qualifications. This includes assessment of prior academic achievements and professional exams (MCAT, GRE, EXADEP, USMLE, etc) and such personal qualifications as motivation, interest, resourcefulness, and leadership, problem solving ability, personality, and character. Applicants to PHSU are considered without regard to handicap but with the expectation that all parts of the curriculum can be completed. The presence of a handicap may compromise the individual's ability in one or more of these areas. In these cases, PHSU must be fully satisfied that the applicant can make satisfactory progress through the curriculum.

PHSU expects all its students to have the abilities and skills, including observation, communication, motor, conceptual, integrative, quantitative, behavioral and social to comply with the expectations of the attended program. Technological compensation may be available for handicaps in some of these areas but nevertheless the student should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a **trained intermediary**, which



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means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation, **is not acceptable.**

1. **Observation:** It requires the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell. For medical students this means to be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. A candidate must also be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.
2. **Communication:** All of our students should be able to speak, hear, and to observe people (or patients) in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, posture, and perceive nonverbal communication. The students must be able to communicate effectively and sensibly with patients. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. The students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently both in oral and written form with all members of the health care team in English and Spanish.
3. **Motor:** MD students should have sufficient motor function to carry out basic laboratory techniques and to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. They must perform anatomical dissections; have sufficient motor ability to use a microscope; be able to do basic laboratory tests, carry out diagnostic procedures and read EKG's and X-rays. A student should be able to execute reasonable motor movements required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Some examples of emergency treatment are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the opening of obstructed airways, among others. These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. These are critical skills demanded from all of our programs (MD, PhD, etc). In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.



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5. Behavioral and Social Attributes: The students must possess the physical and emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities inherent to their studies. For medicine, this may mean diagnosis and care of patients; being able to taxi workloads and to function effectively under stress. The students must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function with the uncertainties inherent to clinical problems of many different patients. Compassion, integrity, concerns for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and must be kept and/or improved during the educational processes.

PHSU has a designated coordinator to facilitate compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* and all its amendments of 2008 which became effective January 1, 2009. Once the student is enrolled, if he/she needs any special accommodation, he/she must contact Academic Affairs to be evaluated so the appropriate accommodation may be provided.