

**University of California, San Diego**  
**Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARM.D.) DEGREE**

Introduction:

The educational objective of the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is to prepare students for the practice of pharmacy. Students admitted to the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences must have the intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities, with reasonable accommodations as needed for those with disabilities, to acquire the knowledge, behaviors, clinical, and technical skills that they will need to successfully complete the curriculum in order to successfully practice pharmacy in accordance with the School's high standards of excellence. The ability, with reasonable accommodations as needed for those with disabilities, to meet the technical standards is essential for the fulfillment of the requirements for the Pharm.D. degree and the educational objectives established by the faculty. All candidates for admission and graduation are evaluated to determine whether they can meet these technical standards. The technical standards outlined below ("Technical Standards"), in conjunction with established academic standards, are followed by the Admissions Committee to select students who possess the intelligence, integrity, physical, personal, and emotional characteristics that are necessary to become an effective pharmacist. Patient safety is a major factor in establishing these requirements. The academic and technical standards established by the faculty require that all students accepted by the UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences possess the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities that insure that they will be able to complete all aspects of the curriculum. All applicants are held to the same academic and technical standards of admission and training, with reasonable accommodations as needed for students with disabilities. If applicants with disabilities require a reasonable accommodation to meet the Technical Standards, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will engage in an interactive process with them. If, after completion of the interactive process, no reasonable accommodation which would allow the applicant to meet the Technical Standards has been identified, the applicant will not be admitted.

Those individuals who would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of others are not considered suitable candidates for admission and will not be admitted.

Technical Standards:

The awarding of the Pharm.D. degree signifies that the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of pharmacy. It follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to practice and function in a wide variety of settings and situations. Candidates for the Pharm.D. degree must be able to perform specific essential functions within a reasonable timeframe that the faculty deem requisite for the practice of pharmacy. These functions fall into several broad categories, including: observation, communication, motor, conceptual, integrative, quantitative, behavioral, and social. Candidates must also have the physical and emotional stamina to function in a competent manner in a setting that routinely involves heavy workloads and stressful situations.

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has determined that those individuals who are currently impaired by alcohol or substance abuse cannot meet the Technical Standards.

**Observation:** Candidates must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic and pharmaceutical sciences, medical illustrations and models, microscopic studies of microorganism and tissues in normal and pathologic states. They must be able to directly and accurately see a patient's physical condition, noting both nonverbal and verbal signals, must be able to obtain a history and perform appropriate physical assessments and to correctly integrate the information derived from these observations to develop an accurate plan. They must be able to prepare medications for dispensing to patients and observe the activities of technical staff operating under their supervision in accordance with State law. They must be able to read information on a computer screen and small print on packages or package inserts. These skills require the functional use of vision, auditory, and somatic sensation.

**Communication:** Candidates must be able to communicate with faculty, staff and peers while in school. Candidates must also be able to communicate with, understand and observe patients in a clinical setting. They must be able to record information accurately and clearly, communicate fluently in and understand the English language, and communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Candidates must be able to adjust spoken or written communication approaches to match the needs of the recipient. Candidates must also be able to communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team in oral and written form, and in patient care settings in which decisions based upon those communications may be made rapidly. They must be able to effectively communicate with and supervise technical support staff.

**Motor:** Candidates must possess motor function sufficient to accurately compound and prepare prescription products for dispensing to patients. They must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients using basic patient assessment skills such as palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers. They must possess the motor function sufficient to safely and effectively perform basic laboratory tests such as glucose monitoring for laboratory testing needed for therapeutic monitoring. They must be able to use computer-based information systems.

**Interpretative, Conceptual and Quantitative:** Candidates must have effective and efficient learning techniques and habits that allow mastery of the pharmacy curriculum. They must remain fully alert and attentive at all times in educational and clinical settings. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, and use of computer technology. They must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. They must also be able to comprehend spatial relationships and three-dimensional models. Candidates must also be able to acquire, comprehend, assimilate and transform knowledge in order to apply it to a specific problem or issue.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Candidates must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of pharmacy and function within the guidelines established by the law and by the ethical standards of the pharmacy profession. They must be able to relate to patients and their families, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team with courtesy, maturity, and respect for the dignity of individuals. This requires that they place the welfare of their patients foremost, and demonstrate honesty, integrity, dedication, compassion and nondiscrimination in the care of their patients. They must at all times demonstrate the emotional stability to be able to exercise good judgment, and carry out prompt completion of all of the responsibilities attendant to the care of their patients in a sensitive and effective manner. This sensitivity includes self-examination of personal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes in order to avoid potential negative impacts on relationships and patient care. Candidates must be able to function effectively in situations of physical and emotional stress and to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and professional

responsibility to their patients, and to learn to function in an environment of uncertainty, in which changes may occur rapidly and without warning. They must also be able to work efficiently as a team member and to accept appropriate suggestions and criticism and, if necessary, respond by modification. All of these personal qualities will be assessed during the admissions and educational process.