



National University of Health Sciences

General Policies

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Professional Studies Program

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President



Date

POLICY STATEMENT

All applicants to National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) Professional Studies programs must be able to meet the University's technical standards in order to matriculate. Technical standards are those physical, behavioral, emotional and cognitive criteria that an applicant must already possess as personality traits, life skills or acquired abilities before enrolling in the program. These qualities are regarded as essential requirements needed to participate and complete the entire spectrum of study, training and experiences within the educational program. These standards are applied in addition to, and separate from, academic standards of qualification.

Procedures

Applicants must review the technical standards that apply to the educational program in which they intend to enroll and sign a form certifying they have read, understand and are able to meet the standards (with or without reasonable accommodations) of that program. This information is provided to help every applicant be more aware of the types of performance and expectations associated with different educational programs that the University offers. The use of technical standards is derived from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These laws provide a framework for individuals with documented disabilities to request reasonable accommodations to fulfill their educational objectives.

Reasonable accommodations are defined as any change or modification in the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to participate as fully as possible in an educational program. An effective accommodation for a disability can ensure that an otherwise qualified applicant with a disability is able to perform and be assessed on their ability rather than by their disability.

Applicants with disabilities are strongly encouraged to contact student disability personnel in the Student Services office early in the application process to begin a confidential conversation about needed accommodations.

Candidates with documented disabilities who wish to request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act must follow the University's procedure for requesting an accommodation. This procedure, in summary, requires submitting a written request for accommodations and support documentation to a life-limiting disability to the Dean of Students. The Dean will review the request and determine whether a reasonable accommodation can be made.

NUHS does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in the recruitment or conditional acceptance to its programs, services or activities. Any information disclosed by an applicant regarding disabilities will not adversely affect conditional acceptance decisions nor eligibility to remain enrolled.

The University reserves the right to reject requests for accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of a University educational program, lower the academic standards, cause an undue hardship on the University, or endanger the health or safety of a student with a disability, other students, clinic patients, or any other member of the University community.

Prior to enrollment (as an applicant) and throughout enrollment (as a student), individuals who wish to request accommodations in order to meet the technical standards are encouraged to self-disclose to personnel in the Student Service Office. Those who do not register with Student Services or who do not provide necessary documentation shall not be considered to be requesting or seeking accommodations. Additionally, accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

In circumstances when applicants are not able to meet the technical standards, the conditional acceptance that may have been proffered shall be rescinded. If at any point after being enrolled, a student ceases to meet the technical standards of the program they shall be encouraged to work with personnel in Student Services, using an interactive process, to determine if any amended or additional reasonable accommodations can be negotiated to allow the student to resume program coursework or clinical internship.

Functional and Behavioral Technical Standards – Professional Studies Programs

Applicants/Students must have abilities and skills in five technical standards categories and be able to perform the requirements in each category in a reasonably independent manner throughout their entire degree program and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, faculty members or themselves. The use of trained intermediaries to carry out the requirements described in the technical standards will not be permitted. Intermediaries, no matter how well trained, apply their own powers of selection and observation, which could affect the applicant's judgement and performance. Please answer each of the following:

Sensory/Observation

With or without accommodation, are you able to observe and participate in demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences including, but not limited to, full-body, science-based dissection on human cadavers, animals, microbiologic cultures, microscopic studies, and microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathological states. An applicant/student must be able to observe a patient - from the first day of classes to the last day of clinic internship - accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell. Therefore, an applicant/student must have sufficient sense of vision, hearing and touch to perform the customary techniques in a physical examination, such as auscultation (listening with a stethoscope), percussion (tapping of the chest or abdomen to elicit a sound indicating the relative density of the body part), palpation (feeling various body parts such as the breast or abdomen with the ability to discern the size, shape and consistency of masses) and visual observation sufficient to note changes in skin and eye color as well as to use such instruments as an otoscope (magnifying device for examining the ear) and ophthalmoscope (magnifying device for examining the eye).

Yes ___ No ___ Use the following space for explanation should you so desire.

Communication Skills

With or without accommodation, are you able to speak, hear, and observe patients - from the first day of classes to the last day of clinic internship - to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications, and demonstrate excellent interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills with patients, families, and other members of the healthcare team. This includes accurately evaluating patient interviews and recording clinical history information, perceiving and interpreting both verbal and nonverbal cues, explaining therapeutic plans clearly and effectively collaborating with all members of the healthcare team—all while displaying sensitivity, composure and professionalism.

Yes ___ No ___ Use the following space for explanation should you so desire.

Motor/Strength/Coordination

With or without accommodation, do you have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients - from the first day of classes to the last day of clinic internship - by palpation, auscultation, percussion, carry out diagnostic procedures (digital rectal, otoscopic, etc.) and read EKGs and diagnostic imaging results. An applicant/student must also be able to coordinate both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and provide general health care and emergency treatment to patients. In emergency situations, students must be able to respond in a timely manner, both by initiating care within their scope of training and notifying and supporting other health professionals. Students must meet applicable safety standards for the environment and follow universal precaution procedures. Possess the requisite strength and dexterity to be able to perform basic procedures such as static and dynamic palpation of joints, movement of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and sufficient motor function to coordinate and balance the hands and body while manually delivering the high velocity, low amplitude thrusting action associated with the controlled manipulative therapy chiropractic and naturopathic physicians frequently apply to the spine or extremities of a patient.

Yes ___ No ___ Use the following space for explanation should you so desire.

Integrate Conceptual, Quantitative and Clinical Data

With or without accommodation, are you able to effectively interpret, assimilate, and understand the complex information required to function within their professional degree curriculum, including, but not limited to the ability - from the first day of classes to the last day of clinic internship - to gather, analyze, and synthesize quantitative, qualitative, and clinical data, comprehend complex relationships, synthesize information both in person and via remote technology, and apply evidence-based reasoning in diverse educational and clinical

contexts. Competence is measured through multiple forms of assessments with an expectation of integrating scientific and patient-centered knowledge in clinical decision-making. Testing and evaluation of these abilities in the College of Professional Studies employs periodic examinations as an essential component of the curriculum. Successful completion of these assessment methods is required of all candidates as a condition to graduate from the program. Examples of these tests include, but are not limited to, essay, oral and/or multiple-choice tests, typewritten papers, oral presentations, and applied lab practicals designed to assess a variety of cognitive and non-cognitive skills in a simulated or supervised clinical setting.

Yes ___ No ___ Use the following space for explanation should you so desire.

Possess Mature Behavioral & Social Attributes

With or without accommodation, are you able to promptly complete all assignments and responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients - from the first day of classes to the last day of clinic internship; and develop mature, sensitive, respectful, and effective relationships with colleagues, supervisors, and patients. The skills required to do so include the ability to effectively manage heavy workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Applicants/students are expected to exhibit truthfulness and integrity, conscientiousness, tolerance, and respect. Among the interpersonal skills applicants/students are to demonstrate, they must exhibit the ability to accept and apply feedback and to respect boundaries and care for all individuals in a respectful and effective manner regardless of gender identity, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other protected status. Applicants/students should understand, and function within, the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of chiropractic, naturopathy, or acupuncture, and to independently demonstrate empathy, integrity, compassion, motivation and commitment commensurate with role of a physician in all interactions with patients, faculty, staff, students, and the public.

Yes ___ No ___ Use the following space for explanation should you so desire.

Referral for In-Depth Review of an Applicant's Ability to Meet Technical Standards

Should, despite arranging new or amended reasonable accommodation (whether the student chooses to use the accommodation or not), a student's existing or acquired disability interferes with patient or peer safety, or otherwise prevents the ability to complete the College of Professional Studies program, then the student may voluntarily withdraw from the program or (following an in-depth review) be administratively dismissed from the program by the Committee on Academic Standards, Grades and Records.

Proposed dismissals are referred to the Committee on Academic Standards, Grades and Records for an in-depth review. The Committee is responsible for determining whether the student can or cannot meet the program technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Review Procedure

1. Conditionally accepted applicants must attest to the technical standards prior to enrollment and – (after enrollment) as students - at each phase of the program they are enrolled within (as listed below). Compliance with this attestation to be able to

meet all five technical standard categories throughout their program will be monitored by the Office of Student Services.

- a. Conditionally accepted applicants must attest to be able to meet all five technical standard categories prior to enrolling in the College of Professional Studies program.
 - b. Students must attest to be able to meet all five technical standard categories at the mid-point of their program.
 - c. Students must attest to be able to meet all five technical standard categories before beginning internship in the NUHS clinic.
2. Students who do not meet the technical standards (with or without reasonable accommodations) may be dismissed following a review by the Committee on Academic, Grades, Records and Standards. The determination of this committee will be reported to the Vice President for Academic Services who will communicate the outcome to the student.

The National University of Health Sciences does not discriminate against persons with disabilities and is committed to reasonably accommodating otherwise qualified applicants/students with disabilities to enable them to complete their course of study. Pursuant to applicable law, the National University of Health Sciences will not approve any proposed accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids) that may reasonably compromise patient health or safety or that would require substantial program modification or lower academic standards. Applicants/Students should contact the Dean of Students (the Chief Disability Resource Official) at (630) 889-6542 with any questions regarding accommodations. Accommodation Request Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.nuhs.edu/student-services/support-services/students-with-disabilities/>