



**University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
Doctor of Pharmacy Degree Program
Technical Standards Admission and Fulfillment of Requirements**

Mission of the PharmD Program

The Pitt Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy Program inspires students to personalize their education and become medication experts, inter-professional collaborators, and leaders who advocate, champion, and act to improve health, wellbeing, and quality of life for individuals and communities.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy prepares students to become practice-ready pharmacists at the time of graduation, participating in active and engaged learning that challenge students in team-based learning and patient care experiences throughout the PharmD Program to achieve the stated program mission. The School of Pharmacy is responsible for safeguarding the care and safety of patients encountered during the program and those encountered after graduation.

Student pharmacists are required to have sufficient intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities to enable them to achieve the defined program curriculum outcomes, to function effectively in diverse learning and patient care environments and provide effective and safe care to patients. Ensuring optimal medication therapy outcomes and patient safety are pivotal forces that underlie the establishment of technical standards required for all students entering, progressing, and graduating with a PharmD degree.

These Technical Standards are foundations upon which learners build knowledge, skills, professional behaviors, attitudes, and values to practice and advance the profession of pharmacy. These are skills and abilities required for successful admission and progression through the PharmD program that extend beyond typical academic performance requirements and are inclusive of Entrustable Pharmacist Activities (EPAs) that are required components of pharmacy practice.

Student pharmacists must meet these standards at admission and matriculation and continuously as they progress through the Pharm.D. program. All students entering, progressing, and graduating with a PharmD degree must meet or exceed the following technical standards, components of which are not mutually exclusive. Students must be proactive in addressing deficiencies in meeting the standards and follow appropriate University policies set forth in doing so. Students who are unable to meet the standards be sanctioned or dismissed from the PharmD program.

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to an inclusive and accessible campus environment. It is the mission of Disability Resources & Services (DRS) to fulfill this commitment by partnering with individuals with disabilities and the University community to provide equal access to employment, classes, programs, and activities.

(<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-resources-services>) Applicants or students who would like to request reasonable accommodations to meet these technical standards should contact University of Pittsburgh Disability Resources and Services (<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services>, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu). The process for requesting accommodation is voluntary and confidential.

The School of Pharmacy is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for those otherwise qualified individuals with a disclosed disability and adheres to the policies set forth by the University of Pittsburgh. A reasonable academic accommodation is a modification or adjustment that allows an individual to gain equal access and have equal opportunity to participate in the School's and the University's courses, services, activities, and use of facilities and do not alter the fundamental nature of the PharmD program.

The School of Pharmacy reserves the right to not admit applicants or continue enrollment of students in cases where reasonable accommodations are not available to allow successful completion of program requirements. Prospective students should review their ability to comply with these standards prior to applying for admission.

Intellectual, Integrative, Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Abilities

Students must have intellectual (cognitive) abilities that include, but are not limited to, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to function independently as a medication expert or in collaboration with a health care team to provide and advance person-centered care and population health. Student pharmacists must be able to adapt to various teaching, learning, and assessment strategies, conducted in various classroom and practice settings. They must have the ability to self-assess their learning, identify learning deficits, and take corrective action when improvement is needed.

Students must be able to

- Analyze, interpret, and integrate information during patient examinations and throughout patient management to make clinical decisions.
- Retrieve, recall, retain, and apply medical, scientific, and professional information and literature in the classroom and during clinical experiences.
- Utilize effective clinical judgment and problem-solving skills to address difficulties in a timely manner in learning environments.
- Multi-task, prioritize, and perform tasks in an accurate, logical, and sequential manner.
- Accurately perform scientific measurements and calculations in clinical environments.

Communication

Student pharmacists must be able to communicate proficiently in both verbal and written English in required educational and patient care contexts. Verbal communication skills must be sufficient so that student pharmacists can interact with student or health care team members and patients efficiently, effectively, and accurately within the time constraints required for a given educational or patient care interaction.

Written communication skills must be sufficiently developed to facilitate professionally written communication in reports and patient care records, in a manner that is readily understood by the intended recipient, using proper grammar, spelling, and professional terminology.

Sensory Skills and Motor Coordination/Function:

Students must have sufficient gross and fine motor function, equilibrium and functional use of vision, hearing, and touch to perform all movements required for delivery of person-centered care as part of a healthcare team which may include

- Preparing and dispensing of medications in various environments
- Patient assessment including physical examination and other assessments
- Point of care laboratory testing
- Handling of medication equipment including syringes and aerosol delivery devices
- Administration of immunizations and other injections
- Sterile and non-sterile compounding of products

Behavioral, Emotional, Social and Professional Attributes:

Student pharmacists must possess emotional and mental health sufficient to allow them to complete a challenging didactic and experiential curriculum. This includes the ability to function in stressful and changing environments while making timely and appropriate decisions.

Student pharmacists must have emotional and social skills to interact professionally with faculty and staff members, fellow student pharmacists, other health professionals, other students, as well as patients and others trusted by the patient. Student pharmacists must demonstrate caring for all individuals in a respectful and effective manner regardless of gender identity, age, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other protected status. Students must possess personal qualities that include integrity, maturity, compassion, sensitivity, patience, interpersonal skills, initiative and motivation to develop the professional knowledge, skills and attitudes to effectively practice pharmacy. Students must respect confidentiality of patients and their health and personal information.

Students must be able to exercise professional judgment to maintain patient safety and well-being and display self-management and professional behaviors, including punctuality, dependability, organization, and responsibility. Students must function as part of an interprofessional healthcare team, demonstrating respect for differences in cultures, experiences, identities, values, and ethics among others.

Physical Health and Stamina:

Student pharmacists must have the physical health and stamina to allow them to complete all required academic and practice experiences. Prolonged health issues can negatively impact Pharm.D. completion, and students with significant health problems are strongly urged to request leaves of absence until the health problems resolve.

Technical Standards Administrative Processes

Applicants are informed of the Technical Standards and are instructed to contact the Associate Dean for Student Success if they require accommodation. As a condition of accepting an admission offer, all entering students are required to review and agree that they fulfill requirements defined as Technical Standards. Also, all students enrolled in the program must review the technical standards each year and, through electronic signature, attest that they continue to fulfill the requirements.

All individuals requesting accommodation will be referred to the Disability Resources Services of the University of Pittsburgh which will evaluate and make decisions and recommendations for specific accommodations on each request. The Associate Dean of Student Success and the Director of the PharmD program will evaluate specific accommodation requests and provide recommendations regarding the feasibility and reasonableness of requested accommodations, specifically whether the requested accommodation will fundamentally alter the nature of the PharmD program.

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