



Technical Standards for Predoctoral Dental Students

Endorsed by the Curriculum Committee on September 18, 2019

Approved at the General Faculty Meeting on November 4, 2019

The Ohio State University College of Dentistry (CoD) is committed to equal access for all qualified applicants to the predoctoral dental program and thus has identified technical standards essential for students to deliver safe, effective dental care while enrolled in the program. The Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the CoD indicates that the graduate is a dentist who is competent to practice all disciplines within the scope of a general dentist and is generally capable to apply for and maintain dental licensure. By the end of the predoctoral dental program, all students, hereafter referred to as STUDENT(S), are required to demonstrate the attitudes, knowledge, and skills (including fine motor skills) essential to the profession and agreed upon by the faculty as requisite for providing safe and effective dental care within an acceptable amount of time. Thus, each candidate for admission and each continuing STUDENT must have the ability to acquire and maintain the attributes, knowledge, and skills required to practice direct patient care regardless of his or her intended career pathway. The list of predoctoral dental program competency statements students are required to attain prior to graduation is available at <https://dentalintranet.osu.edu/content/dds-curriculum>.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the CoD requires that STUDENTS meet the following technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation as a condition of participation in the predoctoral dental program. The CoD is not required to make modifications or provide auxiliary aids or services that would fundamentally alter the nature and substance of the predoctoral dental program, present undue hardship for the institution, pose a direct threat to the safety of patients or others, or compromise the academic integrity of the predoctoral dental program. Reasonable accommodations include those assistive devices and strategies that do not change the essential requirements of the predoctoral dental program and do not change the standards of performance judged by the faculty to be acceptable. Assistance strategies that use trained intermediaries to obtain and interpret data from patients or to provide clinical care to patients on behalf of the STUDENT will not be accepted as reasonable.

In order for the STUDENT to be eligible for accommodations, the STUDENT must be evaluated by the Ohio State University Student Life Disability Services (SLDS) and request that a report be sent to the CoD Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The CoD Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will consult with SLDS if accommodations appear to be unreasonable. However, determination of whether accommodations are reasonable will be made by the CoD Academic Progress Committee.

Standard 1 - Conceptual, Integrative, Qualitative, Quantitative Abilities:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- observe, measure, calculate, integrate, synthesize and utilize information to engage in critical thinking, data analysis and assimilation, problem solving and clinical decision making in both individual and group contexts that are essential to the function of a dentist. They must be able to demonstrate these procedures in potentially challenging situations and in a timely fashion across the range of clinical conditions and time frames.
- acquire required information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and dental sciences. This includes, but is not limited to, information conveyed

through physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations, demonstrations of dental procedures, and images of microorganisms and human or animal tissues in normal and pathologic states.

- comprehend and mentally visualize three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- acquire information from physical and electronic media, including information presented in images on paper and in films, slides, and videos.

Standard 2 - Stamina:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- function effectively in difficult situations, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function when confronted with uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients.
- possess the physical and mental stamina necessary to reliably and fully participate across the curriculum, including small group learning activities, computer based learning activities and examinations, and clinical rotations.
- demonstrate sustained and productive activity to meet the CoD performance standards within the rigorous curriculum.
- work and function as a collaborative, effective and productive team member.

Standard 3 – Sensory Perception:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- observe a patient accurately, at a distance and nearby, including non-verbal communications, when performing general dental treatment.
- perform visual and tactile dental examinations and treatment including use of visual acuity, stereoscopic vision, and accommodation to discern slight differences in distances, depths, and angles as defined by the faculty in the appropriate disciplines as well as variations in shape and general appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues. Use of tactile senses may be either direct through palpation or indirect through instrumentation.
- determine slight differences in color between normal and abnormal soft and hard tissues. The type and degree of color blindness will determine a student's limitations.
- acquire information from written and electronic documents and to interpret visual diagnostic tests including but not limited to radiographs and histological slides.

Such observation and information acquisition is typically accomplished through the use of visual, auditory and somatic sensation while being enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities, including smell. In any case, if the STUDENT's ability to observe or acquire information through typical sensory modalities is compromised, the STUDENT is expected to acquire and effectively use this essential information through the use of reasonable accommodations, including the use of approved auxiliary aids and services. All STUDENTS are held to the same standards regardless of ability.

Standard 4 - Communication:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- communicate efficiently and effectively in both oral and written forms using English in order to retrieve information from literature, computerized databases and lectures and to communicate concepts on written exams and in patient charts. The STUDENT's oral and written communication must be sufficiently effective to allow

other students, staff, and faculty members to easily understand the STUDENT in order to effectively evaluate the STUDENT's performance and allow the STUDENT to work collaboratively in the care of patients.

- communicate clearly and effectively with a degree of sensitivity towards patients, their family members, and/or guardians; establish good rapport, convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain treatment procedures and alternative solutions; obtain informed consent; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment.
- communicate independently with peers and other members of the health care community.
- respond immediately to directions given in emergency situations and during clinical and surgical procedures for providing safe and effective treatment and care.

Standard 5 – Motor Skills:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- possess the manual motor skills necessary to directly perform diagnostic and treatment procedures associated with the practice of general dentistry within a specified amount of time. Such procedures require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional uses of the senses of touch, hearing and vision. For example, the STUDENT must be able to position and expose dental radiographs, manipulate dental materials; prepare and administer local anesthetic, and use the techniques of palpation and percussion.
- perform basic life support (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, i.e., CPR) and position and reposition themselves around patients in various treatment settings.
- operate dental equipment controls utilizing fine hand and foot movements, position and move dental instruments, and move in all directions within 0.5 millimeters of tolerance.
- work in the ergonomic positions appropriate to the delivery of dental treatment for extended times.

Standard 6 – Clinical Skills:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- independently and appropriately perform, within an appropriate time frame, procedures that include, but are not limited to, the following: a comprehensive physical exam on a patient (including palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers), diagnostic procedures, manipulation of equipment and tissues, and maneuver in the dental operatory or operating room.
- independently provide general dental care, within an appropriate time frame.

Standard 7 - Professional Interactions:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- conduct themselves with integrity, respect, compassion, tolerance and acceptance of others in their interactions with patients, peers, staff, and faculty members at all times.
- respond quickly to demands within the clinical environment.
- demonstrate flexibility with regard to the demands of the curriculum and must be able to manage clinical uncertainty.

Standard 8 - Behavioral:

The STUDENT must have or develop and utilize the ability to:

- exercise of good judgment, maintain patient confidentiality, promptly complete responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, students, staff, and faculty members.
- possess compassion, concern for others, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation to be able to manage patients with a range of moods and behaviors in a tactful, culturally sensitive, congenial, personal manner so as not to alienate or antagonize them.
- be responsible and accountable in behavior and actions.
- accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.
- use and tolerate personal protective equipment (face mask, safety eyewear/face shield, surgical gloves and clinic gown) and carry out CoD infection control procedures (use of cleaners and chemicals).
- learn, understand, and perform in accordance with the high ethical values and principles of the dental profession and with state and federal laws.

The STUDENT must meet the predoctoral dental program's technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the duration of their training at the CoD. If at any point during their dental education, the STUDENT determines that they are unable to meet these technical standards they must notify the CoD Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as soon as possible. If a faculty member observes a student behaving in a manner that suggests the student no longer meets the technical standards, the faculty member should notify the CoD Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as soon as possible. Prior to receiving reasonable accommodations, the STUDENT must be evaluated by the SLDS (614-292-3307, SLDS@osu.edu, <https://slds.osu.edu>). Upon notification from SLDS, the STUDENT will provide the College's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs with documentation for all SLDS approved accommodations.

If the CoD Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is concerned that the accommodations may be unreasonable, he/she will consult with SLDS to determine if reasonable accommodations can be made. Once the CoD Associate Dean for Academic Affairs has consulted with SLDS, the Academic Progress Committee will determine whether or not the accommodations are reasonable. The STUDENT will be informed of the decision in writing within ten (10) business days. All written communications in this process can be by email. The STUDENT can appeal to the Academic Progress Committee for reversal of an unfavorable decision by providing written notice within 10 (10) business days. The Academic Progress Committee will hear the STUDENT's appeal within fifteen (15) business days after receiving a written notice of appeal. The Academic Progress Committee will communicate their decision regarding the appeal within ten (10) business days after the appeal hearing. If the STUDENT remains unsatisfied with the Academic Progress Committee's decision, the STUDENT has ten (10) business days to submit written notice of appeal to the dean of the CoD. The dean will inform the STUDENT of his/her decision in writing within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the notice of appeal. There will be no further opportunities for appeal within the CoD.

Following receipt of the signed attestation, STUDENTS who are unable to meet the predoctoral dental program's technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations may withdraw, request a leave of absence, or be dismissed from the program.

**Attestation of Entering Student's Ability to Meet the
College of Dentistry Predoctoral Dental Program Technical Standards**

All students in the predoctoral dental program must meet the technical standards described above with or without reasonable accommodations. If you are unable to determine whether or not you are able to meet the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations, or if you require additional information before signing this form, please contact the College of Dentistry's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at 614-292-4250.

My signature below indicates the following:

I have read and understand the above technical standards.

I accept that throughout my time in the predoctoral dental program at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, I will be expected to meet these technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

If during the predoctoral dental program, I am unable to meet these technical standards, I will contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs as soon as possible.

If it is determined by the College's Academic Progress Committee that I am unable to meet these technical standards, I will withdraw, request a leave of absence, or be dismissed from the predoctoral dental program.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____