

Master of Science (ScM) in Medical Sciences

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, CONTINUATION, AND GRADUATION

Applicants to the ScM in Medical Sciences at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University are selected on the basis of their academic, personal, and extracurricular attributes. In addition, all students must possess the intellectual, physical and emotional capabilities necessary to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. The required abilities and characteristics for completion of the ScM degree consist of certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and sufficient mental and emotional stability to assure that candidates for admission and graduation are able to complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of their education. In addition, students must demonstrate the ability to work as a member of a health care team. This ScM program includes training in the care of patients, and differs markedly from graduate education in fields outside of the health sciences.

Technological accommodation is available to assist in certain cases of disability and may be permitted in certain areas. However, under all circumstances, a candidate for the ScM in Medical Sciences degree should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. An accommodation is not reasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of self and/or others, if making it requires a substantial modification in an essential element of the curriculum, if it lowers academic standards, or poses an undue administrative or financial burden.

The following abilities and characteristics are defined as technical standards, which, in conjunction with academic standards established by the faculty, are requirements for admission, and graduation.

Technical Standards for ScM in Medical Sciences Admission:

Adapted from the recommendations of the AAMC Special Advisory Panel on Technical Standards for Medical School Admission, approved by the AAMC Executive Council on January 18, 1979

A candidate for the ScM in Medical Sciences degree must have abilities and skills in five varieties, including observation; communication; motor; conceptual, integrative, and quantitative; and behavioral and social.

I. Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to the observation of radiologic images, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation.

II. Communication: A candidate should be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with

patients. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

III. Motor: Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, and other diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers. ScM in Medical Sciences students are expected to be able to assist in patient care by measuring vital signs and are expected to successfully complete Basic Life Support training.

IV. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, *the* critical skill demanded of many advanced health care professionals, especially physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures (eg. for the study of human anatomy).

V. Behavioral and Social Attributes: A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, members of the healthcare team, and peers. Candidates must be able to tolerate taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the care of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admissions and education processes