

# D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY

**Policy Title:** Technical Ability

**Responsible Unit:** D'Youville University, DYU-COM Admissions, DYU-COM Leadership, Faculty

**Adoption Date:** April 12, 2023

**Last Review Date:** November 14, 2023

**Next Review Date:** April 12, 2027

**DEANS COUNCIL APPROVED:** November 14, 2023

DYU-COM shall follow the D'Youville University student handbook and will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for physically challenged students.

Osteopathic medical students are unique in their need to be able to utilize osteopathic manipulative medicine techniques described by Andrew Tylor Still D.O. and advanced through the history of osteopathic medicine. Dexterity is a necessary component of the osteopathic curriculum. DYU-COM must maintain the integrity of the osteopathic curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge in all areas of osteopathic medicine, including the demonstration of basic skills requisite for the practice of osteopathic medicine.

If you will be requesting reasonable accommodations, please reach out to the D'Youville University Office of Student Disability Services.

## **Technical Ability:**

Accordingly, DYU-COM requires each student to meet certain technical requirements, which include:

- **Professionalism:** Candidates and students must possess the skill, competence, or character expected of an osteopathic physician. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in treating the problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and education process. Osteopathic medical students of D'Youville University College of Osteopathic Medicine must demonstrate respect for individuals and groups with consideration to the diversity of race, color, ethnicity, sex, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, creed or religion. Certain personal characteristics are expected of a physician. These include integrity, compassion, interpersonal skills, and motivation.

- **Observation:** Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic sciences. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and nearby. It is essential to have adequate visual capabilities to assess structural asymmetries, range of motion, and tissue texture changes.
- **Communication:** Candidates and students must be able to speak, hear, and observe to elicit information, examine patients, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and to perceive non-verbal communication. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. They must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form, with all members of the health care team.
- **Motor Function:** Candidates and students must have sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are: cardiopulmonary resuscitation; administration of intravenous medication; and the application of pressure to stop bleeding; the opening of obstructed airways; and the suturing of simple wounds. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
- **Sensory:** Since osteopathic medical candidates and students need enhanced ability in their sensory skills, it will be necessary to evaluate for candidacy those individuals who are otherwise qualified, but who have significant tactile sensory or proprioceptive disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals with previous burns, malformations of upper extremities, cicatrix formation and sensory motor or special sensory deficits.
- **Strength and Mobility:** Osteopathic manipulative medical treatment often requires considerable upper extremity and body strength. Therefore, individuals with significant limitations in these areas would be unlikely to succeed. Mobility to attend to emergencies, and to perform such maneuvers as CPR, is also required.
- **Visual Integration:** Consistent with ability to assess asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue color and texture changes. It is essential for the candidate to have adequate visual capabilities for the integration of evaluation and treatment of the patient.
- **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** The candidate must be able to demonstrate ability in measurement, calculation, reasoning, comparison and contrast, analysis and synthesis, and problem solving. Candidates and students must demonstrate ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships, and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- **Behavioral and Social Abilities:** Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive relationships with patients and co-workers. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn

to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in treating the problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and education process.

Participation is required in all physical examination courses and laboratories, including but not limited to Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Physical Diagnosis, Primary Care Skills, Objective Structured Clinical Examination, and Clinical Rotations.

Active participation in physical examination courses is an admission, matriculation, and graduation requirement. For example, during the first two years of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) training, each student will palpate, in the laboratory setting, a variety of people representing all genders and individuals with different body types to simulate the diversity of patients expected in a practice setting. Being palpated by other students and faculty helps the student appreciate how palpation feels from the patients' perspective and enables students to provide feedback to their laboratory partners, thus enhancing their palpatory skills. Reading and observation, although helpful, do not develop the skills required to perform palpatory diagnosis and/or manipulative treatment. Again, each student is required to actively participate in all skills development sessions of the physical examination courses, laboratories, and OMM. Occasionally, a student may have a physical problem, which may restrict or prevent use of a specific type of manipulation in a specific anatomical location in the physical examination courses. A student who feels his/her manipulation might be so limited, is required to contact the head of the specific departments before the beginning of the course, and present documentation of the problem. The student is expected to actively participate in all laboratory sessions not directly affected by the problem.

All osteopathic medical students with specific religious or gender identification concerns will be asked to participate in OMM and physical examination laboratories. The College of Osteopathic Medicine wants all body types to contribute to a diverse learning environment. If a particular student has moral or religious issues, please see the DYU representative for the course. DYU-COM strives to make sure all students are comfortable participating in educational seminars regarding preparatory skills.

All osteopathic medical students must be able to meet minimal technical and ability standards. Students must have the ability to see, hear, and touch independently. Student physicians must be able to assess the physical, mental, and emotional status of patients.

Where a physical deficiency occurs, it must be compensated with the aid of prosthetics or other means to the extent that the student is able to meet the minimum technical standards. Reasonable adaptations are those that will enable the osteopathic student to function

independently, and when necessary, in a team-like fashion with other health professionals in an unimpaired manner.

The intent of this policy is to provide each student with the opportunity to excel academically, while creating an equitable environment conducive to learning. In doing so, however, DYU-COM shall maintain the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge in all areas of osteopathic medicine, including osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). For example, technology-related accommodations may be made for disabled students in some of these areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

Osteopathic medical students seeking accommodations must confirm eligibility to participate in the board examination directly with the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). Students are cautioned to address these concerns with the NBOME to avoid not being eligible to participate in board examinations.

D'Youville University will also take affirmative action to ensure that qualified women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are provided full access opportunities. This includes administrators, faculty, staff, students, contractors, and vendors.

Inquiries and concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX coordinator, located in the Koessler Administration Building, by submitting a report through Maxient, the University's official reporting software, by calling 716-829-7812, or through email at [nesselbd@dyc.edu](mailto:nesselbd@dyc.edu); or by visiting the [U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights website](#) or calling 800-872-5327.

A student also has the right to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education. Complaints are to be filed within 180 calendar days of the alleged act of discrimination and may be made to the regional office of OCR:

New York Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

Telephone: 646.428.3900  
FAX: 646.428.3843  
TDD: 877.521.2172  
Email: [OCR.NewYork@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.NewYork@ed.gov)