PERSONAL COMPETENCIES FOR ADMISSION & MATRICULATION

A candidate for admission to the COMP/COMP-Northwest Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program must possess, or be able to achieve through reasonable accommodation, certain sensory and motor functions, that would enable the individual to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below throughout their progression in the program. These personal competencies may also be referred to as technical standards in documents from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). The practice of medicine requires the performance of specific essential functions that fall into broad categories, which include but are not limited to the categories defined below.

Graduation from the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program signifies that the individual is prepared for entry into graduate medical education (GME). It therefore follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills needed to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and be able to render a wide spectrum of osteopathic medical patient care. The student must be able to integrate, consistently, quickly, and accurately, all information received by whatever sense(s) employed. In addition, the individual must have the intellectual ability to learn, analyze, synthesize, and apply various types of information in a self-directed manner within the context of patient care. These requirements are consistent with acceptable clinical norms for licensed physicians.

For candidates or students who require reasonable accommodation(s) in order to meet these competencies, please visit the Harris Family Center for Disability & Health Policy (HFCDHP) at (909) 469- 5441.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without reasonable accommodation(s):

Observation

Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and microscopic laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Reasonable accommodations may be provided for the visually impaired.

Included below is a table containing relevant examples specific to this competency area. This table does not limit nor otherwise restrict the standard that students and candidates for admission are responsible for meeting and/or performing the skills and abilities defined in this area, irrespective of whether a specific expectation and/or example is included in this table. The examples presented are for illustrative and informational purposes only and are not intended to be an exhaustive listing of requirement

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Expectation	Examples
Possess sufficient uncorrected or corrected visual acuity and color perception to: • **Resolve objects as small as 2 mm macroscopically** • **Observe motion and observe and evaluate the human gait at 20 feet** • **See an object from a background of other objects** • **See the difference in objects**	• Locate and identify dissected nerves • Evaluate posture, locomotion and movement in a clinical setting • Identify landmarks on tympanic membranes • Identify materials correctly to be used in laboratories • Locate, identify, and describe foreign bodies, blood vessels, sutures and skin lesions • Read printed materials on handouts, exams, and computer screens • Discriminate body height and depth differences and identify anatomic landmarks for symmetry and postural differences visually

Communication

Candidates and students must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues. They must be able to understand and be fluent in the English language.

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Expectation	Examples
Have fluency in formal and colloquial oral and written English skills	• Demonstrate command of the course material to a professor or attending physician • Comprehend oral lectures, ask questions and comprehend answers • Explain procedures and discuss results with professors and fellow students • Explain medical conditions to patients, attending physicians and fellow students • Explain procedures and discuss test results on prescribed treatments with patients, attending physicians and fellow students • Comprehend laboratory safety and emergency situation instructions • Be able to effectively compose written communication, including documentation of patient history, physical exam, assessment and treatment plan
Perceive and convey sentiments non-verbally and effectively with patients and all members of the healthcare team	• Recognize, comprehend, and respond appropriately to spoken or non-verbal communication of distress or discomfort

Motor

Candidates and students must have sufficient motor functions to enable them to execute movements that are reasonably required to provide general and emergency treatment of patients (i.e. palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic and therapeutic modalities). These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Additionally, candidates and students must possess sufficient posture, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength, and endurance for standing, sitting, and participating in the laboratory, classroom, and clinical experiences.

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Expectation	Examples
Possess equilibrium and coordination of gross and fine muscular movements	• Possess sufficient strength and mobility to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients including CPR, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, assist with surgical procedures (i.e., handing off of instruments, perform retraction), perform simple obstetrical maneuvers, and perform OMT

	• Coordinate fine movement of fingertips, palms, and wrists as in elevation of the cranium • Stand with limited opportunity for gross movement for a minimum of 2 hours at a time, as necessary for particular medical procedures, such as performance of obstetrical delivery, assistance of surgical delivery, and assistance of surgical procedure
Possess sufficient visual-motor coordination permitting delicate manipulations of specimens, instruments, and equipment	• Participate in laboratory exercises using required equipment • Perform minor medical procedures such as venipuncture and suturing.

Sensory

Candidates and students must have enhanced sensory skills including accuracy within specific tolerances and functional use for laboratory, classroom, and clinical experiences. Candidates and students who are otherwise qualified but who have significant tactile, sensory, or proprioceptive disabilities must be medically evaluated. Examples of issues requiring further evaluation include, but are not limited to, individuals injured by significant burns, those with sensory motor deficits, cicatrix formation, or absence and/or malformations of the extremity(ies).

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Expectation	Examples
Possess accurate sense of touch and temperature discrimination	• Palpate the musculoskeletal system • Perform history and physical examination procedures specific to an individual • Perform a bimanual pelvic exam • Palpate distances in depth, elevation and width of body structures • Palpate texture differences, hydration states, fine muscle tension differences, changes in moisture and temperature
Auditory and Visual Senses	• The ability to use a stethoscope • Recognize structures and patient conditions accurately

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates and students must demonstrate problem-solving skills, which involve intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities. These abilities include memory, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. In addition, candidates and students must be able to comprehend

three-dimensional relationships and be able to understand and manipulate the spatial relationships of structures.

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Expectation	Examples
Be able to process multifunctional data and sensory input requiring cognitive recall and motor skills rapidly and initiate critical actions	• Perform osteopathic or medical evaluation of patient posture and movement including analysis of physiological, biomechanical, behavioral, and environmental factors in a timely manner, consistent with acceptable clinical norms • Comprehend oral and written presentations of material and communicate that understanding upon examination in a timely manner, occasionally demonstrating a grasp of the information within the same class period as presented • Successfully complete objective exams designed to assess whether students can apply knowledge learned and successfully complete problem-solving exercises • Evaluate emergency situations including apnea, respiratory or cardiac arrest, bleeding and severe trauma, requiring rapid responses such as intubation and medication

Behavioral, Professional, and Social Attributes

Candidates and students must possess the professionalism required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities. They must show evidence that they can exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities involved in the education process and attendant to the assessment and care of patients. Candidates and students must also demonstrate that they can develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with faculty, staff, colleagues, and patients. Additionally, they must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in patient care. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are some of the personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

Additionally, the College maintains a curriculum that stresses the importance of the body as a unit and the applicability of touch as an integral part of diagnosis and treatment for all patients of all genders. To acquire competencies in physical diagnosis and osteopathic manipulative medical diagnosis and treatment, all students are required to touch others and be touched. Students are required to assume the role of the patient to develop an understanding of the patient experience throughout the curriculum. This includes but is not limited to permitting self and demonstrating on others physical exams such as abdominal, cardiac and musculoskeletal, osteopathic structural

exams, osteopathic diagnosis, and osteopathic manipulative treatment.

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Expectation	**Examples**
Manage priorities successfully, including competing demands and multiple tasks under time constraints	• Maintain satisfactory academic progress including completing exams and other time-sensitive assessments and requirements, including patient care and attending mandatory classes, laboratory sessions and educational programs
Exhibit appropriate behavior, judgment, and ethical standards	• Active participation in and contribution to learning situations • Maintain professional communications and interactions with faculty, staff, classmates, patients, and all members of the health care team • Adhere to the Standards of Professionalism and Ethics as described in the University and College Catalogs and other documents
Adapt successfully to changing environments	• Maintain attention, actively participate and meaningfully contribute to dialogue and practical applications in the classroom, small group exercises, laboratory activities, and in • patient care
Possess constructive, positive and mature interpersonal skills, interest and motivation	• Accept criticism and respond with appropriate modification of behavior • Timely and adequately respond to personal or academic struggles; seek assistance, practice planning and avoid procrastination
Participate as both a student patient and a student physician in the learning environment	• Allow for exposure and palpation of non-sexual body parts when serving as a student patient in the learning environment • Expose and palpate non-sexual body parts when serving as a student physician in the learning environment • Participate in learning, including dissection, of cadaveric donor patients • Participate in practice examinations, in scenarios including all genders, as both a student patient and a student physician.

Physical Health

To ensure compliance with the respective state's Department of Public Health requirements and exhibit exemplary commitment to the rights and integrity of all parties in the education of health care professional students, the College has established medical status credentialing requirements that must be completed prior to matriculation. In addition to the personal competencies listed above, candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree also must be sufficiently free of any serious communicable diseases. Medical status credentialing is designed to ensure that the safety of patients is not compromised while protecting the rights and safety of students as well. For detailed information, contact the Student/Employee Health Coordinator at stu-emphealth@westernu.edu.

Special Note: Students who require a reasonable accommodation to meet the competencies outlined within this document are expected to contact, expeditiously, the HFCDHP in order to begin the interactive process. Due to the unique nature of the Osteopathic Principles and Practices discipline, the Neuromusculoskeletal/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (NMM/OMM) Department may assess and approve certain non-essential modifications to standard maneuvers/techniques, for students who possess a temporary physical/medical condition and/or who may meet the criteria of a qualified individual with a disability under the ADA. **If approved, these modifications are limited only to the NMM/OMM course and will be provided to ^{HF}CDHP for record keeping**. In the event that the NMM/OMM Department is unable to identify and/or approve a non-essential modification, that individual will be referred directly to ^{HF}CDHP.