**CMS TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

To assure that candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation are able to complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of medical training, essential abilities and characteristics are required. These include certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and sufficient mental and emotional stability. Any intention of the student to practice only a narrow part of the curriculum upon graduation does not alter the requirement that all students perform satisfactorily in the full curriculum and meet all graduation requirements. For purposes of this document and unless otherwise defined, the term "candidates" means candidates for admission to medical school as well as Chicago Medical School students who are candidates for retention, promotion or graduation.

Chicago Medical School has a societal responsibility to train competent healthcare providers who demonstrate critical judgment, extensive knowledge and well-honed technical skills. The essential skills, abilities and characteristics described herein are also referred to as technical standards. They are described below in several broad categories including: *observation; communication; motor function; intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; and social and behavioral skills*. These standards must be met throughout medical school in order for students to make satisfactory progress and graduate. Candidates and current students who have questions regarding the technical standards or who believe they may need to request reasonable accommodation(s) in order to meet the standards are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities.

**Observation**

Candidates must be able to acquire a defined level of required information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic sciences, including but not limited to such things as dissection of cadavers; examination of specimens in anatomy, pathology, and neuroanatomy laboratories; and microscopic study of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. Candidates must be able to accurately acquire information from patients and assess findings. They must be able to perform a complete physical examination in order to integrate findings based on this information and to develop an appropriate diagnostic and treatment plan. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.

**Communication**

Candidates must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently, and sensitively with patients, families, other healthcare providers, faculty, staff, and peers. They must be able to obtain a medical history; describe changes in mood, activity, posture and behavior; interpret non-verbal aspects of communication, document and transmit information accurately and clearly, and establish therapeutic relationships with patients.
Motor

Candidates must be able, with appropriate training, to perform a complete physical exam and basic clinical procedures. The candidates must be able to respond promptly to general and emergency clinical situations. These skills require a degree of physical mobility and neuromuscular coordination.

Intellectual-Conceptual (Integrative and Quantitative) Abilities

Candidates must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; simulations and use of computer technology. The candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize. In addition, they must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. They must also be able to formulate and test hypotheses that enable effective and timely problem-solving in diagnosis and treatment of patients in a variety of clinical settings and health care systems.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of 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, and effective relationships with patients. They must display characteristics of integrity, honesty, attendance and conscientiousness, empathy, a sense of altruism, and a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. The candidates for the MD degree must accept responsibility for learning and must exercise good judgment. They must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. The candidates must have the physical and emotional stamina and resilience to be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function in a competent and professional manner under highly stressful situations. Candidates must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients.

Ref: LCME Standard 10.5