

**Information below includes procedures for reasonable accommodation for disabilities and technical standards outlining essential functions required to provide clinical patient care.**

## **DISABILITIES AND REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS**

The University of Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. Students with disabilities who require accommodations related to work in a course should notify the course instructor in writing within the first week of the course. Accommodations are not retroactive and begin only after eligibility is determined and a reasonable time for accommodation development has been allowed. Students must self-identify, provide appropriate documentation to substantiate the disability and the limitations to major life activities and formally request reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities through Suzette Dyer at the OU Disability Resource Center (620 Elm Avenue, Suite 166, Goddard Health Center, Norman Campus). (405) 325-3852 (Voice), (405) 325-4173 (TDD), (405)325-4491 (FAX).

The center will determine eligibility and work with the appropriate University officials in making reasonable accommodations. Please go to <http://drc.ou.edu/content/view/164/120/> for additional information, policies, procedures, and additional resources.

## **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

**(Essential functions necessary to matriculate and continue in the clinical programs of the College)**

The College is committed to the principle of diversity. In that spirit, admission to the College is open to qualified individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

The University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry, a component of the OU Health Sciences Center, recognizes that the award of a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree, Bachelor of Dental Hygiene degree, and graduate specialty certificates or degrees carries with it the full authority of the institution and communicates to those who might seek the services of the bearer that he or she is competent to practice dentistry. The DDS degree certifies that, upon licensure, the graduate is prepared to practice all disciplines of the dental profession appropriate for a general practitioner. This requires that the student acquire cognitive and technical skills and attitudes determined by the faculty as requisite for the practice of dentistry. Programs in the dental specialties carry the same privileges as the DDS degree. In the same manner, the Bachelor of Dental Hygiene degree confers the privilege of practice in dental hygiene with all of its patient responsibilities.

The College recognizes the unique cognitive, technical, and attitudinal aspects of these curricula. Students must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of

the educational program. The student is required to direct or perform treatment on the patients of the College as part of the curriculum. The College has responsibility for ensuring the safety of patients and student clinicians. This includes the completion of treatment safely and within a reasonable amount of time. The student must be able to meet or perform the following elements that are fundamental to the nature of the program.

### **Sensory and Observation**

Students must be able to observe patients, in clinic or in simulations, in order to gain information to be used in diagnosis. Students must possess vision, hearing and physical abilities sufficient to obtain a patient history, perform a physical examination and provide patient care. Additionally, students must have sufficient dexterity to manipulate dental equipment appropriately and to perform in class, clinic and laboratory settings for extended periods of time.

### **Cognitive**

Students must be able to solve problems using the ability to understand and retain knowledge derived from readings, lectures and demonstrations. Students must be able to use reasoning to analyze and integrate learned material and apply principles to new problems.

### **Motor Skills**

Students ordinarily should have motor function sufficient to enable them to execute movements required to provide general care for and treatment of patients in routine and emergency situations. It is required that a student possess the motor skills necessary to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional uses of the senses of touch, vision and smell. Students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress.

### **Communication**

Students must be able to communicate effectively with patients; convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. Communication includes speech and writing. Students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team. Students must have sufficient facility with English in order to retrieve information from texts and lectures and communicate concepts on written exams and patient charts; elicit patient backgrounds; describe patient changes in moods, activity and posture; and coordinate patient care with all members of the health care team. In any case where a student's ability to communicate through these sensory modalities is compromised, the student must demonstrate acceptable alternative means and/or ability to acquire and demonstrate the essential information conveyed in this fashion.

**Behavioral Skills**

Students must possess the emotional health required for all utilization of the 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.

**Admissions and Continuation in the Curriculum**

The College has determined that the functions and skills listed above are fundamental to the nature of the program. The College will consider for admission any applicant who has: 1) the ability to perform the functions and skills specified, with or without reasonable accommodations, and 2) met the published criteria for admission required for all applicants.

The college is not permitted to make any inquiries regarding disability at the time of application. Applicants should refer to the "Technical Standards for Matriculation and Continuance in the Clinical Programs of the College." Applicants may review the University of Oklahoma Reasonable Accommodation Policy online at: [www.ou.edu/drc](http://www.ou.edu/drc). All applicants must meet all published admissions criteria and be able to meet all elements that are fundamental to the nature of the program, with or without accommodation, as outlined in the Technical Standards.

A matriculant or current student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation must provide appropriate documentation to substantiate the disability and any functional limitations related to the disability that require reasonable accommodation. The College, in accordance with University Policy, will provide reasonable accommodation to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities, but is not required to make modifications that would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the program, service, or activity; cause undue hardship; or result in undue financial or administrative burdens. In order to matriculate or continue in the curriculum, a matriculant or current student must be able to meet all the technical standards that are fundamental to the nature of the program. An inability to successfully meet these standards will lead to a withdrawal of admission offer or dismissal. Requests for accommodation by matriculants or current students should be initiated with the Director of the Disability Resource Center at:

The University of Oklahoma  
Disability Resource Center  
620 Elm Avenue, Suite 166  
Norman, OK 73019-2093  
(405) 325-3852 Voice  
(405) 325-4173 TDD  
[www.ou.edu/drc](http://www.ou.edu/drc)  
[drc@ou.edu](mailto:drc@ou.edu)