



*Office of Student Affairs*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Entering First Year Medical Students

FROM: Cinnamon Bradley, MD, FACP  
Associate Dean of Student Affairs  
Professor, Internal Medicine

RE: Technical Standards

Morehouse School of Medicine acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and PL 101-336 of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation will be provided for medical students with disabilities. A professional evaluation diagnosing the disability will be required. The evaluation will be at the expense of the student. To request reasonable accommodations, you may contact Morehouse School of Medicine's, Office of Disability Services at 404- 752-1871 or via E-Mail at [ODS@msm.edu](mailto:ODS@msm.edu).

The Technical Standards for Medical Student Admissions and Graduation from Morehouse School of Medicine were given to you at the time of interview. They are also published in the Student Handbook. For your convenience, a copy is attached.

Please read all the attached materials and return this information to the mailing address below:

Morehouse School of Medicine  
Office of Admissions  
720 Westview Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

Thank you for your cooperation!



## Technical Standards for Medical School Admissions and Graduation

Medical education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behavior. Medical school faculties have a responsibility to society to matriculate and graduate the best possible physician, and thus admissions to medical school has been offered to those who present the highest qualifications for the study and practice of medicine. Technical standards have been established as prerequisite for admission and graduation from the Morehouse School of Medicine. All courses in the curriculum are required in order to develop essential skills required to become a competent physician.

Graduates of medical school must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. MSM acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and PL 101-336, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but ascertains that certain minimum technical standards must be present in the prospective candidates. MSM will consider for admission any applicant who meets its academic and nonacademic criteria and who demonstrates the ability to perform the skills listed in the Technical Standards listed below, with or without reasonable accommodation consistent with the ADA and Rehabilitation Act.

A candidate for the M.D. degree must have aptitude, abilities, and skills in five areas: observation, communication, motor, conceptual and integrative and quantitative, and behavior and social. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain of these areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Students must have the intellectual, physical, and emotional capabilities necessary to undertake the required curriculum in a reasonably independent manner and that students must be able to achieve levels of competence required by faculty.

**Observation:** Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and of sensory modalities. The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and participate in experiments in the basic sciences. The candidate must also be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

**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. Communication includes not only speech but reading and writing. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and all members of the health care team.

**Motor Coordination or Function:** Candidates should have sufficient motor functions to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests, carry out diagnostic procedures, and read EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatments to patients. Examples of emergency treatments to patients. Examples of emergency treatments reasonably required of



physicians include but are not limited to cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

**Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include measurements, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three dimensional relations and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full use 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 and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively when stressed. 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 clinical problems of many patients.

I certify that I have read and understand the Morehouse School of Medicine's Technical Standards and that I am able to meet the standards with or without reasonable accommodations. In addition, I further certify that I understand if I would like to request reasonable accommodation(s) I may do so by contacting the Office of Disability Services at 404-752-1871, and that the Office of Disability Services will determine whether a reasonable accommodation can be made. I certify that I understand that a reasonable accommodation is one that does not cause Morehouse School of Medicine to experience undue hardship and/or "fundamentally alters" the program curriculum.

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Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Signature