

Professional Technical Standards

Introduction

In order to accomplish its mission, the Lebanese American University (LAU) School of Pharmacy (SOP) must provide a safe environment for its students to acquire, learn and apply their knowledge as well as interact safely and effectively with patients and other healthcare providers. In addition to academic knowledge and skills, students must also possess a minimum of cognitive and physical abilities that assure their ability to complete their course of study and fully participate in their experiential education and training. Furthermore, the SOP aims for its graduates to become competent pharmacists who can meet all requirements for pharmacist licensure and be competent to practice pharmacy in all settings.

In accordance with University policy, the University does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs, or financial aid against any student. The University makes a good faith effort to provide accommodations for students with disabilities in order to facilitate their success in the program and reach their greatest potential. The LAU SOP uses the following professional technical standards that are required, in addition to the academic qualifications, for admission to the program and success throughout its curriculum under five themes: observation; communication; motor; intellectual; conceptual; integrative and quantitative skills and abilities; and behavioral and social attributes.

Five Themes

1. **Observation:** students must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic and pharmaceutical sciences through the functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic senses. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Students must be able to directly and accurately see a patient's physical condition, obtain a patient history and correctly integrate the information derived from these observations to develop an accurate medication therapy management plan. They must also have the functional use of visual acuity to be able to read prescriptions.
2. **Communication:** students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, caregivers, and all members of the healthcare team. Communication includes the functional use of speech, reading, writing, hearing and computer literacy. Students must be able to participate in large and small group discussions and interact with patients individually and in groups. Students must also learn to recognize and promptly respond to emotional situations such as sadness, worry, agitation, and lack of comprehension.
3. **Motor:** students must have sufficient sensory and motor coordination and function to prepare all routine types of medications, perform patient assessment, and deliver direct patient care. Students must be able to perform basic tasks in the practice of pharmacy including preparing and dispensing pharmaceuticals and specialty dosage forms, sterile and non-sterile compounding, various screening maneuvers, competently using instruments for monitoring drug response; and using current technology to access and record drug and disease information within a reasonable timeframe.

4. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** students must demonstrate a range of intellectual, conceptual, integrative and quantitative skills that allow mastery of the large and complex body of knowledge that comprises the pharmacy curriculum. Students must also demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills, and the ability to solve patient care problems in a competent manner using rational reasoning, decision making, judgment, numerical recognition, information integration, solution synthesis, and other skills. Students must be able to learn how to integrate and process information promptly and accurately; think thoroughly in an organized manner, develop patient counseling information at a level of comprehension suitable for each individual patient; and retain and recall critical information in an efficient and timely manner. Students must be fully alert and attentive at all times in clinical settings.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** students must possess sufficient mental and emotional health to utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, promptly complete all assignments and responsibilities, tolerate and function effectively under the stress of physically and emotionally demanding workloads, develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships and demonstrate compassion and concern for others. Students must be able to function within regulatory limits and modify behavior based on criticism, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Students must possess empathy, integrity, interpersonal skills, and motivation to excel in pharmacy practice. Illicit drug use and alcohol impairment are not tolerated, and students may be required to submit to criminal history checks and drug screens.

Application of Professional Technical Standards

Use of professional technical standards to determine qualified/eligible students: legal aspects

1. All students wishing to apply to the SOP must meet the minimal technical professional standards in order to complete the program requirements and become competent and successful pharmacists capable of serving the public.
2. Students who need certain accommodations to meet the technical professional standards discussed herein may submit a request, with documented evidence from reliable professional sources, for accommodation to the school Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.
3. Students applying for special accommodations will be reviewed on an individual basis, taking the above mentioned professional technical standards into consideration in a consistent and professional manner.
4. The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in coordination with the LAU Dean of Students, office of Student Development and Enrollment Management (SDEM) and university counselor will be charged in reviewing the individual cases for students requesting special accommodations and making recommendations to the SOP Dean. Any special accommodations will then be provided to the said student by the Dean of Students in coordination with other concerned units.
5. In good faith effort, all reasonable accommodations requested by the individual should be provided.

6. The SOP will do its best to accommodate said student; however, accommodations made shall not fundamentally alter the SOP program or grading/program requirements, modify the curriculum in any major way, or impose undue financial or administrative burdens on the SOP.
7. Students that may be struggling or exhibiting signs of concern throughout the program would be referred to the school Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for support or referral to the Dean of Students office in Byblos. The procedure for referring students to the Dean of Students office in Byblos will be devised by the SOP Student Affairs Office.