

## Standard 9 – Element 9.1-2

### Main Evidence

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#### Technical Standards

##### Minimal Technical & Ability Standards

Every applicant who seeks admission to DYU-COM is expected to possess those intellectual, moral, social, ethical, physical, and psychological capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty of DYU-COM.

##### Accessibility Services & Student Accommodations

Certain elements of the osteopathic curriculum deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge include the demonstration of basic skills requisite for the practice of osteopathic medicine. Osteopathic medical students are unique in their need to be able to utilize osteopathic manipulative medicine techniques described by Andrew Tylor Still, D.O. and advanced through the history of osteopathic medicine. Dexterity is a necessary component of the osteopathic curriculum.

In partnership with the Office of Accessibility Services, DYU-COM follows its parent institution's (D'Youville University) student handbook, policies, and procedures to make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for physically challenged students. If you will be requesting reasonable accommodations, please reach out to the Assistant Dean for Student Services for assistance or directly to the Office of Accessibility Services.

##### Minimal Technical and Ability Standards:

All osteopathic medical students must be able to meet minimal technical and ability standards or meet these standards with reasonable accommodations. Students must have the ability to see, hear, and touch independently as each student physician must be able to assess the physical, mental, and emotional status of patients.

Where a physical deficiency occurs, it must be compensated with the aid of prosthetics or other means to the extent that the student is able to meet the minimum technical standards.

Reasonable adaptations are those that will enable the osteopathic student to function independently, and when necessary, in a team-like fashion with other health professionals in an unimpaired manner.

Accordingly, DYU-COM requires each student to meet certain technical requirements (with or without approved reasonable accommodations), which include:

- **Professionalism:** Candidates and students must possess the skill, competence, or character expected of an osteopathic physician. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in treating the problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and education process. Osteopathic medical students of DYU-COM must demonstrate respect for individuals and groups with consideration to the diversity of race, color, ethnicity, sex, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, creed or religion. Certain personal characteristics are expected of a physician. These include integrity, compassion, interpersonal skills, and motivation.
- **Visual Capabilities:** Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, or observe with reasonable accommodations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic sciences. It is essential to have adequate visual capabilities to assess structural asymmetries, range of motion, and tissue texture changes. They must also be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and nearby.
- **Visual Integration:** Consistent with ability to assess asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue color and texture changes. It is essential for the candidate to have adequate visual capabilities, or capabilities with reasonable accommodations, for the integration of evaluation and treatment of the patient. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities- The candidate must be able to demonstrate ability in measurement, calculation, reasoning, comparison and contrast, analysis and synthesis, and problem solving. Candidates and students must demonstrate ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships, and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- **Communication:** Candidates and students must be able to speak, hear, and observe to elicit information, examine patients, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and to perceive non-verbal communication. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. They must also be able to communicate effectively, or communicate with reasonable accommodations, and efficiently in oral and written form, with all members of the health care team.
- **Behavioral and Social Abilities:** Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization 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 relationships with patients and co-workers. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in treating the problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and education process.

- **Sensory:** Since osteopathic medical candidates and students need enhanced ability in their sensory skills, it will be necessary to evaluate for candidacy those individuals who are otherwise qualified, but who have significant tactile sensory or proprioceptive disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals with previous burns, malformations of upper extremities, cicatrix formation and sensory motor or special sensory deficits. In these cases, the Office of Accessibility Services will serve as a partner in decision making.
- **Motor Function:** Candidates and students must have sufficient motor function, or motor function with reasonable accommodations, to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are: cardiopulmonary resuscitation; administration of intravenous medication; and the application of pressure to stop bleeding; the opening of obstructed airways; and the suturing of simple wounds. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
- **Strength and Mobility:** Osteopathic manipulative medical treatment often requires considerable upper extremity and body strength. Therefore, individuals with significant limitations in these areas may be unlikely to succeed. Mobility to attend to emergencies, and to perform such maneuvers as CPR, is also required. In these cases, the Office of Accessibility Services will serve as a partner in decision making.

### Active In-person Participation

Active participation in physical examination courses is an admission, matriculation, and graduation requirement. For example, during the first two years of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) training, each student will palpate, in the laboratory setting, a variety of people representing both genders and individuals with different body types to simulate the diversity of patients expected in a practice setting. Being palpated by other students and faculty helps the student appreciate how palpation feels from the patients' perspective and enables students to provide feedback to their laboratory partners, thus enhancing their palpatory skills. Reading and observation, although helpful, do not develop the skills required to perform palpatory diagnosis and/or manipulative treatment. Again, each student is required to actively participate in all skills development sessions of the physical examination courses, laboratories, and OMM. Occasionally, a student may have a physical problem, which

may restrict or prevent use of a specific type of manipulation in a specific anatomical location in the physical examination courses. A student who feels his/her manipulation might be so limited, is required to contact the head of the specific departments before the beginning of the course, and present documentation of the problem. The student is expected to actively participate in all laboratory sessions not directly affected by the problem.

### **Dress Code Requirements**

Each student must be appropriately attired and prepared before class begins. Failure to be appropriately attired for class impedes the educational process and will not be tolerated. In some laboratories it is imperative to the educational process that the specific body region being examined and/or treated will need to be exposed for observation, palpation and treatment. The dress requirement in clinical skills training sessions is designed to promote learning by providing optimal access to diagnostic observation and palpatory experience to the specific region of the body being examined. Wearing inappropriate clothing interferes with a partner's experience of diagnosis and treatment.

Appropriate attire must be clean and includes:

- Shorts- several inches above the knee - (no jean shorts, cut-offs, cargo, thick- seamed shorts, spandex, or knee length shorts).
- T-shirts - all genders will be asked to remove t-shirts while acting as patients. Those wearing undergarments must wear sports bras or bathing suit tops that expose the spine and ribs.
- Shoes- When in the role of the patient, each student is expected to remove her/his shoes.
- Hats or head coverings- are not permitted in lab. Religious head coverings are permitted but must be modified when necessary to allow palpation when they would obscure the immediate area to be examined or treated (e.g., head, neck, upper back). Modifications can include adjustment of the covering permitting unobstructed palpation beneath the covering; or substitution of a thinner material that allows for adequate evaluation and treatment.
- Students may wear scrubs over the laboratory attire when not in the role of the patient. Students serving as patients may wear cover-ups for areas of the body not being examined (however, students must be prepared to reveal other parts of the anatomy as specific lessons unfold and trace the interconnectivity of the human body).

### **Religious Sensitivity**

D'Youville University is founded on support of and sensitivity to religious observance. DYU-COM will ensure that reasonable accommodation of religious sensitivities is provided to the extent that it does not impact negatively on the delivery and execution of the curriculum and its learning objectives. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Physical Diagnosis labs are critical to the Osteopathic Medical curriculum and each student must participate fully. DYU-COM, when necessary, reserves the right to determine the extent, frequency and academic impact of accommodations offered on a case-by-case basis.

### Examination and Licensure Requirements

Notwithstanding the accommodations provided by DYU-COM, all osteopathic medical students must pass COMLEX USA Level 1 and COMLEX USA Level 2, within six years of matriculation at the D'Youville University College of Osteopathic Medicine. COMLEX USA Level 1 and COMLEX USA Level 2 are administered through the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). NBOME has its own requirements and standards.

The accommodations, if any, a student receives at DYU-COM may not be available or offered by NBOME, please contact the NBOME for individual concerns. Osteopathic medical students seeking accommodations must confirm eligibility to participate in the board examination directly with the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). Students are cautioned to address these concerns with the NBOME to avoid not being eligible to participate in board examinations.

### ADA and Equal Opportunity

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other applicable laws, the DYU-COM shall provide reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified students with verified physical, psychological and/or learning disabilities. DYU-COM will also take affirmative action to ensure that qualified women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are provided full access opportunities.

Inquiries and concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX coordinator, located in the Koessler Administration Building, by submitting a report through Maxient, the University's official reporting software, by calling 716-829-7812, or through email at [nesselbd@dyc.edu](mailto:nesselbd@dyc.edu); or by visiting the [U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights website](#) or calling 800-872-5327.

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