

Technical Standards, Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences

Technical Standards are non-academic requirements essential for meeting the academic requirements of certain graduate programs in the School of Medicine of Tulane University. Within any area of specialization, students must demonstrate competence in those intellectual and physical tasks that together represent the fundamentals of research in their chosen discipline.

The PhD degree programs and some MS degree programs at the Tulane University School of Medicine require a dissertation or thesis based on independent research. Granting of those degrees implies the recipient has demonstrated a base of knowledge in their chosen field of study and possesses the ability to independently apply that knowledge to form hypotheses, design and conduct experiments, interpret experimental results, and communicate these findings to the scientific community. Thus, a candidate for the PhD or some of the MS degrees in the health sciences must possess abilities and skills that allow for observation, intellectual and conceptual reasoning, motor coordination, and communication. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable.

The following technical skills are required of the successful student:

Observation: The candidate must be able to acquire knowledge by direct observation of demonstrations, experiments, and experiences within the research and instructional setting.

Intellectual/Conceptual Abilities: The candidate must be able to measure, calculate, analyze, reason, integrate and synthesize information to solve problems.

Motor Skills: The candidate must possess motor skills necessary to perform procedures required for experimentation within the chosen discipline. Those individuals with physical challenges are encouraged to contact the appropriate administration to determine their educational options within the chosen discipline.

Communication: The candidate must be able to communicate and discuss his or her experimental hypotheses and results to the scientific community.

Behavioral and Social Attributes: The candidate must possess the emotional and mental health required for appropriate utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of responsibilities inherent in managing a scientific setting, the ability to function under the stress inherent in research, and the ability to understand and comply with ethical standards for the conduct of research.