



**University of Pikeville
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Office of the Dean**

Technical Standards

Policy Contact: Admissions, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Policy Category: Administration
Policy Number: 9.1 - 2
Review: Annually

Purpose

University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to equal access for all qualified applicants and students however, a doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) must have the knowledge and skills required to perform in a broad variety of clinical situations. Therefore, students must be capable of consistently meeting certain technical standards. This policy sets forth the guidelines for technical standards required for potential students of KYCOM.

Policy

KYCOM complies with the nondiscrimination policies of University of Pikeville and does not discriminate against any protected class, however, KYCOM must maintain curriculum requirements deemed essential to the education of an osteopathic physician. KYCOM Candidates for admission may receive reasonable accommodations as determined by the Disability Resource Center; however, potential students must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner throughout their enrollment at KYCOM. Technical standards include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Observation: KYCOM candidates must be able to comprehend a level of required information as represented through demonstrations, experiments and other experiences in the basic sciences. Students must have adequate visual capabilities to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand; acquire information from written documents; and view information presented in images on paper, film, slide, or video. Observing and acquiring information from these sources typically requires functional visual, auditory, and somatic sensation, enhanced by other sensory modalities.
2. Communication: KYCOM candidates must be capable of communicating effectively, efficiently, and sensitively with patients, their families, and other members of the healthcare team. It is also imperative for students to be able to communicate with patients in order to elicit and acquire information, perform examinations, describe changes in mood, activity, posture, and perceive nonverbal communication cues.

General Disclaimer:

The information available is not to be treated as a contract, but rather a unilateral statement of policy. The university reserves the right to revoke, modify or suspend any of its policies and procedures at any time without notice.



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3. **Motor:** Candidates applying for admission to KYCOM should possess the ability to demonstrate reasonable endurance, strength, and precision. As such, students should have sufficient motor function necessary to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. This includes, but is not limited to performing palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Such movements require coordination of both gross and fine muscular activity, equilibrium and functional use of touch and vision.
4. **Sensory:** KYCOM candidates should display enhanced sensory skills. Potential students who are otherwise qualified, but have significant tactile sensory or proprioceptive disabilities must be evaluated medically. These disabilities include, but are not limited to those with significant burns, have sensory motor deficits, cicatrix formation, or malformations of the upper extremities.
5. **Strength and Mobility:** KYCOM candidates are required to have sufficient posture, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and endurance for standing, sitting and participating in the laboratory, classroom and clinical requirements. In addition, osteopathic treatment often requires upright posture with sufficient lower extremity and body strength. Therefore, candidates with significant limitations in these areas would not be likely to successfully complete the requirements of a doctor of osteopathic medicine.
6. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** These necessary abilities include reading, writing, measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. In addition, KYCOM candidates should be capable of comprehending three-dimensional relationships and understanding the spatial relationships of structures.
7. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** KYCOM candidates must possess the emotional health required to fully use their intellectual abilities, ability to exercise good judgement, promptly complete responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and be capable of developing mature, sensitive, and effective relationships.

In addition, students are required to be capable of tolerating physically demanding workloads, and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to every changing environment, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients.

Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions process.

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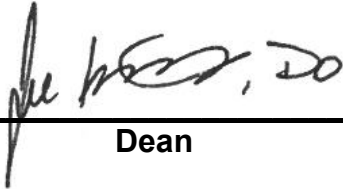
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Additional Information

Information regarding disabilities and academic adjustments with the Disability Resource Center have no bearing on the application process for KYCOM. Communication regarding disability accommodations should be directed to Disability Resource Center, University of Pikeville, 147 Sycamore Street, Pikeville, KY 41501, DRC@upike.edu, or 606-218-5232.



Dean

April 24, 2025

Last Approved Date

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