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## TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FORM FOR HEALTHCARE SCIENCE MAJORS

### TECHNICAL STANDARDS

This information contained in this technical standards form will be only used by the Healthcare Sciences (HCS) Program for purposes of determining if the individual has met the needs of their future profession and the program. This information will remain as part of the secured student file and will be CONFIDENTIAL at

□ Many professional schools require that the student is able to meet the physical and mental skills and abilities necessary to fulfill the academic and clinical requirements of the program. The Technical Standards Form, Health History Record, Immunization Record, and the Physical Examination will guide compliance.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the HCS Program at the University of the Incarnate Word is committed to providing a supportive, challenging, diverse and integrated environment for all students. In accordance with these federal directives, the University and the HCS Program ensure accessibility to their programs, services and activities for students with documented disabilities.

The UIW HCS Program has academic as well as technical standards that must be met by students to enroll, progress, and graduate from the program. **Students must be able to fulfill the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations and acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to meet the program outcomes.** The technical standards are not designed to deter applicants for whom reasonable accommodation will allow fulfillment of the complete curriculum. We encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations.

These abilities are classified into six categories: (1) observation, (2) communication, (3) motor & sensory, (4) intellectual, (5) intellectual, (6) professionalism.

1. **Observation:** A candidate must be able to observe demonstrations in the classroom and lab. A candidate must also be able to accurately observe a patient at a distance and at close range, in order to gather the necessary data regarding the patient's physical status.
2. **Communication:** The ability to read, write, communicate and understand the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice, including but not limited to, the ability to (a) establish rapport and communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, parents and family members, support staff, coaches, administrators, officials, medical and allied medical personnel and colleagues, including individuals from diverse backgrounds; (b) record and discuss the physical examination results and treatment and rehabilitation plans clearly and accurately.
3. **Motor:** Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations, therapeutic treatments, and therapeutic exercise and rehabilitation protocols using accepted techniques. This includes, but is not limited to, the ability to (a) accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of patients; (b) gather decision-making pieces of information during an injury assessment activity in class or in the clinical setting; (c) perform assessment, treatment and rehabilitation activities in class and in the clinical setting by direct performance; (d) sit, stand, and kneel for extended periods of time while rendering assistance to patients; (e) frequently move from place to place and position to position at a speed maximizing safety; (f) follow safety procedures established for each class and clinical setting.
4. **Sensory:** Candidates must have adequate sensory function in order to elicit information from a physical examination through palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers.

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5. **Intellectual:** Candidates must have the mental capacity to learn and assimilate a large amount of complex, technical, and detailed information. They must also be able to solve problems through critical analysis and perform measurements necessary to develop a therapeutic plan.

6. **Professionalism:**

Ability to follow the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, the Standards of Care of various health professions, and their Code of Ethics (includes but is not limited to the following):

- Demonstrate compassion and respect for the dignity of all human beings
- Exercise honesty in all work and human interactions throughout the course of HCS program
- Demonstrate willingness to care and to advocate for diverse patients, including the poor and the vulnerable
- Exercise initiative to acquire the foundational knowledge of the HCS program
- Assume accountability for all work completed throughout the course of the HCS program
- Demonstrate willingness to accept feedback and learn from others (faculty, peers, patients, & interprofessional health care team members)
- Demonstrate curiosity and interest in lifelong learning
- Demonstrate professionalism in all learning situations throughout the program

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7. **Behavioral and Social:** Candidates must possess emotional and social attributes required to exercise good judgment, maintain composure, promptly complete all responsibilities as they relate to the care and management of a patient, and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team. Candidates must also be able to adapt to an ever-changing environment, display adaptability, tolerate physically taxing workloads, and maintain their composure during highly stressful situations. Candidates must possess the ability to recognize the personal need for help and seek help effectively.

Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be considered on a nondiscriminatory, confidential, case-by-case basis and in consultation with the UIW Office of Student Disability Services. This includes a review of whether the accommodations may jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential for graduation. The technical standards delineated above must be met with or without reasonable

accommodation. Students who, after review of the technical standards determine that they require reasonable

accommodation to fully engage in the program, should contact UIW Student Disability Services (SDS) to confidentially discuss their accommodations. An SDS Advisor for the health professions can be reached by calling 210-829-3104 or 210-829-3997. For more information, please visit <https://my.uiw.edu/sds/>.

Given the clinical nature of the program, additional time may be needed to implement accommodations. Accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged.

In consultation with the Manager of Student Disability Services, HCS Admissions Committee and the Program Chair, the Dean of the Ila Faye Miller School of Nursing & Health Professions (IFM SNHP) will have the authority to make the final determination regarding the ability of a particular student to enter and/or continue in the program. Any evidence of a possible inability to meet the technical standards may be cause for further student evaluation at the HCS Program's discretion.

**Temporary Disabilities:** The Office of Student Disability Services provides accommodations and support to temporarily disabled students. The HCS Program may require medical provider release to return to the classroom and/or clinical setting following any temporary disability.

#### Student Acknowledgement:

I acknowledge and understand the technical standards associated with the profession and the program with or without reasonable accommodation. I feel that I can meet the technical standards for admission and are capable of the didactic and clinical needs of the program. I understand if my abilities or health status change, I must resubmit this form along with a new physical examination and health history form.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Accommodations for Board of Certification, Inc. and State Licensure Examinations**

Individuals should be aware that both the Board of Certification, Inc. and the Texas Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers will provide reasonable accommodations on the written and practical sections of the examination for students that qualify.

- For more information on the current policies and procedures related to disabilities and accommodations offered for the BOC examination, the individual should contact the Board of Certification.
- For more information on the current policies and procedures related to disabilities and accommodations offered for the State of Texas licensure examination, the individual should contact the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

I acknowledge and understand that it is the student's responsibility to seek out and request accommodations for credentialing examinations.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_