Essential Functions/Technical Standards

To accomplish its mission and to meet its institutional education program objectives, Tulane University School of Medicine has established a curriculum consisting of core courses and clerkships, required rotations, and elective rotations. The faculty and administration of the school have developed essential functions with which all students must comply independently in order to satisfy medical school curricular demands. The essential functions are listed below:

Physical Health
A medical student must possess the physical health and stamina necessary to carry out a physically and intellectually demanding program of study independently in both the basic and clinical sciences.

Intellectual Skills
A medical student must have sufficient powers of intellect to acquire, assimilate, integrate, and apply information obtained from written, oral, and visual sources. A medical student must have the intellectual ability to use both objective and subjective criteria to solve problems. A medical student must possess the ability to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships, as well as concrete and abstract concepts. A medical student must be able to extract information from written sources.

Motor Skills
A medical student must have sufficient motor skills to carry out all necessary procedures involved in the learning of the basic and clinical sciences, as well as those required in the hospital and clinical environment. These may include, but are not limited to, anatomical dissection, basic science laboratory exercises, basic and technical cardiac life support activities, physical examinations, surgical, clinical laboratory and other technical procedures as required for diagnosis and treatment.

Communication
A medical student must have sufficient use of the senses of speech, hearing, and vision to be able to communicate effectively with patients, teachers, and peers in both the oral and written form.

Sensory Abilities
A medical student must have sufficient use of the senses of vision, hearing, touch, and smell to observe effectively in the classroom, scientific laboratory, and clinical setting.

Behavioral Qualities
- A medical student must possess emotional health sufficient to function in the academic and clinical environments.
- A medical student must be able to consistently demonstrate sound judgment and must behave in a professional, reliable, mature, and responsible manner at all times.
- A medical student must possess sufficient flexibility to function in new and stressful environments.
- A medical student must possess appropriate motivation, integrity, compassion, and a genuine interest in providing care for others.

*(Located in the TUSOM Student Handbook; Approved by Student Professionalism and Promotion Committee July 2018.)*