

Technical Standards and Essential Functions
College of the Canyons Pharmacy Technology Program

Purpose Statement: Technical standards and essential functions are crucial for participation in clinical settings and the practice of the profession. They are not conditions for admission into the program but reflect the performance abilities required to successfully complete the program. For individuals with documented disabilities, reasonable accommodation will be provided on an individual basis, but they must still be able to perform these tasks independently.

In the field of pharmacy, the ability to provide safe and effective care depends on students mastering functions related to these technical standards. If a student cannot perform these functions, they may be unable to meet course objectives and progress in the Pharmacy Technician program.

By providing this knowledge upfront, students can make well-informed decisions about whether to enroll in the Pharmacy Technician program, understanding the expectations and requirements of the profession.

| Category | Description | Examples |
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| Cognitive Ability | Demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities to ensure safe and accurate processing of orders and positive patient outcomes. | Collect, analyze, and integrate information. Perform calculations. Understand and recall complex information. Follow policies and procedures. Organize and prioritize tasks. Work effectively under stress. Demonstrate awareness of diverse populations. Acquire knowledge of commonly prescribed medications. Comply with HIPAA standards. Process and prepare prescriptions accurately. |
| Communication Ability | Communicate effectively in English with instructors, peers, healthcare professionals, and patients. | Adjust communication for multilingual and culturally diverse individuals. Read and interpret medical/pharmacy abbreviations. Provide verbal feedback and teaching. Demonstrate empathy. Read and respond to emails promptly. Effective verbal and written communication in English. |
| Interpersonal/ Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior | Exhibit emotional and psychological stability to function under stress and adapt to changing situations. | Follow the Professional Code of Ethics. Demonstrate professional behavior. Show empathy and sensitivity. Respond calmly in stressful situations. Maintain composure in clinical and didactic environments. Establish productive working relationships. Work independently or in a team. Manage academic schedules and deadlines. Perform in fast-paced clinical situations. Display flexibility and adaptability. Demonstrate integrity, concern for others, and motivation. Accept responsibility and accountability for actions. Develop effective relationships with clients and healthcare teams. Comply with professional standards. |

| Category | Description | Examples |
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| Visual Ability | Demonstrate visual acuity for reading, evaluating, and processing prescriptions, labels, and packages. | Read fine print and Roman numerals. Differentiate dosage forms by size, shape, and color. Calibrate equipment. Perform visual inspections of preparations. |
| Auditory Ability | Demonstrate hearing acuity to communicate and interact with patients and healthcare professionals. | Hear and communicate clearly in person and by telephone. Listen for equipment function or malfunction and emergency signals. |
| Tactile Ability | Demonstrate tactile ability for preparation and compounding of products. | Handle and manipulate syringes, vials, and medication packaging. Use and calibrate equipment. Don and remove Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Perceive the size, shape, temperature, or texture of objects by touching with fingertips. |
| Olfactory Ability | Detect unusual odors in the environment. | Identify malodorous or unusual smells of medicines. Distinguish harmful odors (e.g., fire, noxious fumes). |
| Strength and Mobility | Demonstrate physical abilities and strength to perform clinical and administrative duties. | Lift heavy objects. Move in tight quarters. Walk, stand, sit, squat, balance, climb, reach, grip, lift, pull, and push. Use ergonomic techniques. Maneuver in crowded environments and small spaces. Perform repetitive hand and fine motor movements. Carry up to 25 pounds safely. Seize, hold, grasp or turn objects with hands. |
| Motor Skills | Demonstrate gross and fine motor abilities to prepare, package, and deliver medications. | Manipulate equipment. Perform data entry and clinical duties. Perform CPR if needed. Regularly use high degree of hand-eye coordination to manipulate pharmaceutical equipment. Utilizing fine and gross motor skills for manipulating, transferring, packaging, reconstituting and compounding. Including use of syringes, needles, vials and caps, large and small volume IV solution, and liquid and solid dosage form stock bottles. |
| Physical Endurance | Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance for assigned tasks. | Work 8- to 12-hour shifts. Sit or stand for long periods. Climb stairs. Stand and walk for extended periods. |
| Environmental Tolerance | Work in a pharmaceutical environment. | Tolerate exposure to artificial lighting, air conditioning, dust, odors, and noise. Wear PPE for extended periods. Handle environmental risks and hazards. Use Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for specific drugs and chemicals. Travel to and from training sites. |

Technical Standards and Essential Functions Acknowledgment Form

I, _____, understand these technical standards and essential functions are required to be successful in the pharmacy field, and I understand I have to meet all of these standards to successfully participate in and complete the Pharmacy Technician Program. I understand these standards are based on industry standards and the ASHP Accreditation Standards (3.1).

Student Signature

Date