



**NOORDA COLLEGE**  
of OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

### **Minimum Technical Standards for Admission and Matriculation Communication**

- Communication - Communicate effectively (in English) with patients and all members of the healthcare team.
- Motor Function, Strength and Mobility - Sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Mobility to attend to emergency codes and to perform such maneuvers as CPR is required. Significant limitations in these areas would negatively impact likelihood to succeed and place patient safety at risk.
- Observation/Sensory Skills - Sufficient to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the biomedical and clinical sciences. Must have adequate capabilities for proper evaluation and treatment integration to be able to assess asymmetry, range of motion and tissue texture changes. Individuals who are otherwise qualified and who may have significant tactile sensory, or proprioception disabilities may require a thorough evaluation.
- Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities - Must be able to perform cognitive functions in a time-sensitive environment in diverse clinical settings where others may be present. Must be able to draw on their store of knowledge in emergency situations.
- Behavioral and Social Attributes – Sufficient personal qualities to effectively and professionally engage in team-based patient care. Promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients.

### **Participation in Osteopathic Clinical Skills**

Laboratory Students will palpate, in the laboratory setting, a variety of people, representing all genders and individuals with different body types to simulate the diversity of patients expected in a practice setting. This learning requires active participation in all sessions. Being palpated by other students helps the student appreciate how palpation feels from the patient's perspective and enables the students to provide feedback to their laboratory partners, thus enhancing the palpatory skills of all students. The development of palpatory skills needed to diagnose and treat problems of the musculoskeletal system requires dress attire to maximize the ability to evaluate tissue texture changes, bony and soft tissue landmarks, tenderness, and range of motion.

For a more complete description, please refer to definitions. Noorda-COM will attempt to develop creative ways of opening the medical school curriculum to competitive, qualified disabled individuals when possible. In doing so, however, the College must maintain the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the education of an osteopathic physician.

### **Proper Dress Attire**

The development of palpatory skills needed to diagnose and treat problems of the musculoskeletal system requires proper dress attire to maximize the ability to evaluate tissue texture changes, bony and soft tissue landmarks, tenderness and range of motion.

All students must wear to the laboratory to allow easy access for palpation of body parts as determined by particular subject area of each lab.

- Loose fitting shirts
- Short pants/scrubs/sweats/bathing suits (no spandex)
- Female students should wear a sports bra or bathing suit top under a loose-fitting shirt to allow maximal exposure of the back
- All students should keep their shirts on unless being directly palpated
  - Scrubs may be worn in the lab with the caveats above
  - All scrubs should be in good repair and clean

Improper attire includes items that might impede palpatory and visual learning, including, but not limited to:

- Denim
- Jewelry
- Belts

### **Special Accommodations**

The College provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The intent of the policy is to provide each student with an opportunity to excel academically while creating an equitable environment conducive to learning. The policy will be administered consistently, fairly and in a non-discriminatory manner. The policy complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1992 and any other applicable state and/or federal laws. All applicants receiving supplementary application material for admission will be asked to certify that they have reviewed the College's Minimum Technical Standards and the Osteopathic Clinical Skills Laboratories requirements. Student accepted to the College will be required to complete a post-Admissions Questionnaire requesting information about mental and/or physical limitations that may require accommodation while attending the College. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) are federal laws that prevents discrimination against applicants and individuals with disabilities and, when needed to provide reasonable accommodations to applicants who are qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations, so that they may perform the essential duties of a student. It is the policy of Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine (Noorda-COM) to comply with all federal and state laws concerning the enrollment of persons with disabilities and to act in accordance with regulations and guidance issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Furthermore, it is the COM policy not to discriminate against qualified individuals in regard to application procedures, acceptance, advancement, discharge, training or other terms, conditions and privileges of enrollment.

### **Procedures for Requesting Special Accommodations**

- Applications may be submitted at any time during the academic year.
- An application for accommodations is a request for only the academic year in which it was submitted.
- If an accommodation is granted during the first academic year, a renewal application must be submitted the following year should the student desire continuation of the granted accommodations. • Requests for special accommodations do not signify privilege until official notice is received from the dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

- All requests for special accommodations due to a physical, psychological, or learning disability must contain appropriate documentation and be directed to the Academic Accessibility Committee, which makes recommendations to the Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, who makes approval decisions.

### **The Student's Responsibilities**

Submit a completed application, which can be obtained from the office of the Dean and have all documentation forwarded (release form available in the above-mentioned offices) to the chair of the Academic Accessibility Committee.

The application form includes the following information:

- Name
- Social Security number
- Student ID number
- Address
- Telephone number
- Diagnosis of the disability and the earliest date that the disability was professionally diagnosed
- Supporting documentation must be forwarded including
  - Diagnosis
  - How it affects major life activities
  - Results of tests that were administered and interpreted
  - Name
  - Address
  - Phone number of professional(s), including physician(s) responsible for administering and interpreting tests
  - Date(s) that the tests were administered and interpreted
  - Recommendations for any accommodations
- A personal description of how the disability affects major life activities
- Define the accommodation(s) that is (are) requested. The applicant must indicate whether accommodations were granted in all previous educational environments; if accommodations were given, the applicant must provide the following:
  - Name of institution(s)
  - Name of person(s) [and respective department(s)] who granted accommodations
  - Subject area(s) for which accommodations were granted
  - Specific description of accommodations received
  - Signature of student
  - Date the application is submitted

Students who fail to meet these guidelines will not be allowed to matriculate.

### **Release Applicant Information**

Noorda-COM adheres to strict privacy protocols that specify that only the applicant can have access to the application material and the status of his/her application. If the applicant wants another party or multiple parties (i.e., parent, spouse, advisor, physician, friend) to check the status of his/her application, the applicant is required to submit in writing a signed waiver giving personnel of Noorda-COM permission to discuss all details of the application with each said individual.

### **Academic Accessibility Committee (AAC) Review**

Review the completed forms and will follow these steps:

- In reviewing questionnaires that indicate mental and/or physical limitations, the AAC:
  - Investigates whether the disability is ADA-protected
  - Determines if the student is otherwise qualified and is capable of completing the entire program
  - Assesses the risk of the student harming self and others
- Reserves the right to request additional documentation
- May consult with any necessary healthcare providers
- May require that the student meet with any College-selected healthcare provider at the student's expense for further evaluation or testing
- Makes a formal recommendation to the Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine based on all of the information received regarding a student's qualification for meeting the minimum technical standards for the program.

Important Note: An application is incomplete if it does not contain documentation dated within 24 months of submission of application. The AAC may waive the 24-month requirement if additional documentation is not deemed necessary.

It is the responsibility of the student to have an evaluation and tests administered and interpreted. The AAC can refer the student to a local provider for evaluation. Any charges for an evaluation or forwarding of documentation are the student's responsibility.

### **Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Review**

- Reviews completed forms and the AAC's recommendation and may request additional information (documentation) as necessary.
- Under urgent or emergent circumstances, the Dean may allow immediate short-term accommodations.
- Collaborates with College legal counsel in rendering a decision.
- Notifies the student by letter of the decision.