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Nonacademic Technical Standards for  
Graduate Certificate Dietetic Internship Program

University of Kansas Medical Center  
School of Allied Health  
Department of Dietetics and Nutrition

**Background:** The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibit discrimination against applicants for admission to education programs on the basis of disability and require “reasonable accommodation” for “qualified” persons. Qualified persons are those who meet the eligibility requirements of the academic program, i.e. passing scores on admission tests, completion of prerequisite courses and ability to perform the academic and nonacademic standards of the education program with or without a reasonable accommodation. The Nonacademic Technical Standards include those physical, cognitive and behavioral standards that are required for the satisfactory completion of all aspects of the curriculum and the development of professional attributes required by all students upon completion of the program.

If a person is accepted into the *Dietetic Internship Program*, he/she will be asked to state if the Nonacademic Technical Standards can be met with or without accommodation. It is the accepted student’s responsibility to notify the Admissions Committee if there is any reason why the accepted student cannot meet the Nonacademic Technical Standards for the Dietetic Internship Program with or without accommodation. The acknowledgement of need for accommodation to meet the Nonacademic Technical Standards will be reviewed by the department Admissions Committee and the KUMC Equal Opportunity/Disability Specialist. The Equal Opportunity/Disability Specialist will request documentation of the disability and will review the accepted student’s ability to meet the Nonacademic Technical Standards with the provision of reasonable accommodation. If you have questions, you may contact Carol Wagner, Equal Opportunity/Disability Specialist, Equal Opportunity Office, KU Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66160 (Phone: 913-588-7813 or TDD: 913-588-7963).

**Our philosophy:** The Department of Dietetics & Nutrition and the University of Kansas Medical Center has a commitment to nondiscrimination, access and reasonable accommodation. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

**Dietetic Internship Program:** The program prepares students to practice dietetics and nutrition within academic and healthcare organizations. The graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad range of activities. Therefore, all students who are admitted into the Dietetic Internship Program must meet the following abilities and expectations:

**Observational Abilities** (Vision and hearing)

The admitted student must be able to:

- Observe, learn from and analyze classroom and clinical demonstrations and experiences in disciplines relevant to dietetics and nutrition that include but are not limited to biochemistry, physiology, statistics and research methodology.
- Read and comprehend text, numbers and graphs.

**Communication Abilities** (Hearing, speech, reading, and writing)

The admitted student must be able to:

- Communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with students, faculty, scientists, health providers and clients.

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- Understand lectures and readings.
- Read and comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Follow verbal and written instructions.
- Present lectures and research results verbally and in writing.
- Use the computer in coursework and in communication with faculty, preceptors, students and administration.
- Independently prepare papers, take examinations on paper, and computerized versions.
- Prepare assignments both written and online.

### **Physical and Motor Capabilities** (Endurance, strength, coordination)

The admitted student must be able to:

- Participate in academic program activities for the required number of hours/day (generally 8 hours/day, 5 days/week).
- Ability to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress.
- Travel to sites involved in coursework.
- Travel within the university to sites such as the library, classrooms, etc.
- Use a computer.
- Prepare assignments both written and online.
- Make public presentations to large and small audiences..
- Collect specimens and perform basic tests and physical assessments on individuals, e.g., finger sticks for blood glucose testing, using glucometers, skin fold thickness, blood pressure, placing feeding tubes, etc.
- Participate in research activities involving either / or laboratory and patient centered activities.

### **Intellectual Abilities**

The admitted student must be able to:

- Understand and perform measurements, calculations, synthesis, analysis, reasoning and problem solving.
- Observe and learn from classroom and clinical education experiences.

### **Behavioral and Social Skills**

The admitted student must have:

- The emotional health required to fully utilize intellectual abilities, to exercise good judgment, to act ethically and to complete projects in a timely manner.
- Self-motivation and require little supervision.
- Appropriate, sensitive and effective relationships with clients, faculty, members of health team and/or research collaborators and other diverse groups.
- Attention to detail and flexibility to function in a clinical setting.
- Reliability and responsibility to complete assigned tasks in a timely manner without constant supervision.
- Ability to adapt to change in time, place and structure of academic setting.
- Ability to adapt to the fast pace of change in the medical sciences.
- Ability and willingness to participate in academic program activities in a variety of settings such as community and clinics and hospitals with risk of exposure to individuals with a variety of infectious and noninfectious diseases.

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