

## MBS TECHNICAL STANDARDS

All candidates for the MBS degree must possess the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data. They must have functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, equilibrium, and smell. Their exteroceptive (touch, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) senses must be sufficiently intact to enable them to carry out all activities required for a complete biomedical science masters education. Candidates must have motor-function capabilities, physical endurance and the emotional health to meet the program's demands, including training and service as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, which may include extended hours of instruction and time in clinical settings, evenings, nights, and weekends.

The study of medical sciences is not a pure intellectual exercise. Rather, a specific set of minimal physical, mental, emotional and social abilities are needed to be a successful student. Students must possess all of the abilities described in the five categories below. The use of an intermediary that would, in effect, require a student to rely on someone else's power of observation and/or communication will not be permitted. To achieve the optimal educational experience, students are required to participate in all phases of the training program.

The candidate for the MBS degree must possess the following abilities and skills necessary to successfully complete the curriculum:

**Observation:** The ability to observe is required for demonstrations, visual presentations in lectures and laboratories. A candidate must be able to observe patients accurately and completely, both at a distance and closely. This ability requires functional vision and somatic sensation and is enhanced by a sense of smell.

**Communication:** A candidate should be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, perceive nonverbal communications, describe changes in mood, communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and their families, as well as instruct patients and their families. Communication should include not only speech but also reading and writing. Communication in oral, written and electronic form with the health care team must be effective, efficient and timely.

**Motor Function:** A candidate should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and movement of limbs, as well as carry out treatment maneuvers, which may include lifting, transferring of patients, and assisting during ambulation while assuring their own safety as well as the safety of the patient. A candidate should have motor function sufficient to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Such skills require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and sensation.

**Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** Problem solving is a critical skill that requires conceptual, integrative, and quantitative thinking abilities. The candidate must also be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships, the spatial

and functional relationships of structures and to analyze and apply this information for problem solving and decision-making. They must have the ability to organize, prioritize, analyze and evaluate detailed and complex information individually, in small groups, in clinical settings and within a limited time frame.

**Behavioral and Social Skills:** A candidate must have the emotional health to fully use his or her intellectual ability, exercise good judgment, and to complete all responsibilities attendant to the evaluation and treatment of patients. He or she must be honest, able to self-assess own mistakes, accept criticism and assume responsibility for maintaining professional behavior.

A candidate must be able to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with faculty, patients, families, caregivers and colleagues. A candidate must be able to tolerate physical and emotional stress and continue to function effectively. A candidate must possess qualities of adaptability and flexibility and be able to function in the presence of uncertainty. He or she must have a high level of compassion for others, motivation to serve, integrity, and a consciousness of social values. A candidate must possess sufficient interpersonal skills to interact positively with people from all levels of society, all ethnic backgrounds, and all belief systems.

The Faculty of the Duke University School of Medicine recognizes its responsibility to present candidates for the MBS degree that have the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to function in a broad variety of academic, clinical and scientific situations.