Technical Standards

Candidates for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree must be able to perform the essential functions in each of the following categories: Observation, Communication, Motor, Intellectual, Behavior/Social, and Ethical Values. However, it is recognized that degrees of ability vary among individuals. Individuals are encouraged to discuss their disabilities with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and consider technological and other facilitating mechanisms needed in order to train and function effectively as a pharmacist. The UIC College of Pharmacy is committed to enabling its students by any reasonable means or accommodations to complete the course of study leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

- **Observation**: A candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to physiological and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, evaluation of microbiological cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathological states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand and interpret presented information. In detail, observation necessitates the functional use of vision and other sensory modalities.

- **Communication**: A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively in oral and written forms with patients, caregivers, faculty/staff, and all members of the healthcare team. The focus of this communication is to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communication. Communication includes speech, reading, writing, and computer literacy.

- **Sensory/Motor**: A candidate must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by touching patients, e.g., assessing range of motion of a joint, blood pressure readings, taking a pulse. A candidate must be able to execute motor movements to provide general care and emergency treatments to patients, e.g., first aid treatments, cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A candidate must be able to execute motor movements required in the compounding of medications including techniques for preparing sterile solutions. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

- **Intellectual** (Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities): Problem solving and critical thinking are key skills to proper performance of the responsibilities of a pharmacist. A candidate must have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, and analyze. A candidate must be able to synthesize and apply complex information. A candidate must be fully alert and attentive at all times in clinical settings.

- **Behavioral/Social**: A candidate must be of sufficient emotional and mental health to utilize fully his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all patient care responsibilities. A candidate must possess the ability to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. A candidate must be able to tolerate physically and emotionally taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. A candidate must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. A candidate must possess compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, and motivation to excel in pharmacy practice. The pharmacy student must be able to modify behavior in response to constructive criticism.

- **Ethical Values**: A candidate must demonstrate the highest level of professional demeanor and behavior, and must perform in an ethical manner in all dealings with peers, faculty, staff, and patients.