

## Technical Standards: Essential Abilities and Skills Required for Pharmacy Technicians

The following abilities and skills are essential for a student to be successful in the Pharmacy Technician Program and to become employed as a South Carolina Registered and/or State Certified Pharmacy Technician (RPhT, CPhT).

Check yes or no.

| Essential Function    | Technical Standard  | Some Examples of Necessary Activities (Not all inclusive)   | Yes | No |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----|----|
| Critical Thinking     | Critical thinking ability is sufficient for clinical/placement judgment.  | Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations.<br>Make appropriate decisions in an emergency or where a situation is not clearly governed by specific guidelines.<br>Evaluate client/patient and/or equipment responses.   |     |    |
| Interpersonal Skills  | Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.   | Exhibit interpersonal and social skills acceptable in dealing with clients/patients, clinical and college personnel.<br>Function as part of a team.   |     |    |
| Communication Ability | Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal, and written formats with faculty, other students, clients, families, and all members of the healthcare team.<br>Computer literacy.    | Able to elicit information, assess nonverbal communication.<br>Transmits information to clients, fellow students, faculty and staff, and members of the health care team.<br>Receive, write, and interpret written communication in both academic and clinical settings.  |     |    |
| Physical Endurance    | Remain continuously on task for several hours while standing, sitting, walking, lifting, bending, and /or transporting clients/patients.  | Stand, walk, bend, reach, and/or sit for long periods of time (12 hours shifts).  |     |    |
| Mobility              | Physical abilities are sufficient to move from area to area and maneuver in small spaces; full range of motion; manual and finger dexterity; and hand-eye coordination.                                       | Hand-eye coordination and finger dexterity required to achieve the psychomotor objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of a spatula</li> <li>• tablet counter</li> <li>• mortar and pestle</li> <li>• balance and weight sets</li> <li>• needles</li> <li>• syringes</li> </ul> Skills of counting and pouring for medication preparation.                                   |     |    |
| Motor Skills          | Sufficient gross and fine motor abilities to execute the movement and skills required for safe and effective pharmaceutical practice.   | Operate all required equipment.<br>Lift equipment/supplies weighing up to 50 pounds.<br>Excellent fine motor skills and hand/finger strength such as those required to perform sterile compounding using strict aseptic technique.<br>The ability to manipulate needles and syringes while holding arms out in front of you for extended periods of time.                                     |     |    |
| Adequate Height       | Ability to reach and operate overhead equipment.  | Reach and manipulate all required equipment in pertinent areas.   |     |    |
| Auditory Ability      | Normal or corrected auditory ability sufficient to access direct and non-direct essential patient information.  | Recognize and respond to soft voices or voices under protective garb.<br>Recognize and respond to voices over the telephone, via a speaker, or from a microphone speaker in a drive through.  |     |    |
| Visual Ability        | Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for patient/client observation, assessment and/or treatment; ability to discriminate between subtle changes in density (black to gray) of a color in low light. | Able to visually discriminate increment readings on syringes.<br>Able to read instrument scales.<br>Able to enter and review data during use of computer equipment.<br>Able to visually discriminate different colored and shaped objects.<br>Able to detect visible incompatibles.<br>Assess the environment at a distance.<br>Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language. |     |    |
| Tactile Ability       | Tactile ability is sufficient for physical assessment.  | Manipulate supplies and equipment without contamination or breakage.  |     |    |
| Olfactory Ability     | Olfactory senses (smell) are sufficient for maintaining environmental safety, and patient/client needs.   | Detect odors (medications, outdated medications)  |     |    |

| Essential Function               | Technical Standard  | Some Examples of Necessary Activities (Not all inclusive)  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Behavioral and Social Attributes | Possess the emotional health and stability required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities, the ability to exercise good judgment, the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities and development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients and other members of the healthcare team.<br>Possesses the ability to tolerate taxing workloads, functions effectively under stress, adapts to changing environments, display flexibility, and learns to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical settings with patients.<br>Possess compassion, integrity, concern for others and motivation.<br>Possess ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and strong work ethics. | Management of heavy academic/clinical schedules and deadlines.<br>Be able to work in a fast paced, potentially stressful lab/clinical/work situations. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At college-level handle stresses of an intense nature in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting.</li> <li>b. At the clinical level possess the flexibility to adjust and react to rapid changes in a patient's status and respond appropriately.</li> </ol> Display flexibility.<br>Sustain professional activities for protracted periods under conditions of physical or emotional stress.<br>Accepts responsibly and accountability for one's own actions.<br>Develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with clients and others.<br>Comply with the professional stands of the pharmacy profession.<br>Demonstrate emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment.<br>Demonstrate integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivations. |  |  |
| Intellectual                     | Ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information and make decisions.<br>Ability to perform mathematical calculations.   | Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, prescriptions, and medication orders, medical records, and professional literature. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize Utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment and complete tasks, within required time limits.<br>Possess the ability to successfully calculate mathematical medication problems relevant to clinical situations and completely prepare these medications.<br>Retain information.<br>Apply knowledge to new situations and problem-solving scenarios.  |  |  |

If **NO** is answered to **any** of the technical standards, please describe below which standard(s) cannot be met and explain why.

Can the standard(s) be met with reasonable accommodation(s) or the provision of an auxiliary aid/service?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, list the accommodation(s) necessary. Official documentation of the disability and the type of accommodation that must be provided must be on file in the SCC Office of the Student Disabilities Director and given to the Pharmacy Technician Program Director.

Note: Students requiring reasonable accommodation should contact Student Disabilities Services at 592-4811, located in the East Building E-30B.

Student **MUST**:

1. Be free from any dangerous or unlawful chemicals as defined by the laws of the United States or the State of South Carolina.
2. Be free from communicable diseases, infectious diseases, and/or conditions which are not amenable to universal precautions.
3. Demonstrate immunity to Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola, Tuberculosis, Varicella, and Hepatitis B or be vaccinated against these agents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date