

## **Technical and Behavioral Standards for Admission & Graduation**

The VCU School of Dentistry PhD program provides education without regard to disability while assuring that academic and technical standards are met. Academic standards are met by successfully completing the curriculum for the PhD degree. Technical standards represent the essential non-academic requirements that a student must demonstrate to successfully participate in and graduate from the degree program. An applicant and candidate for the PhD degree must have demonstrated aptitude, abilities, and skills in the following categories:

**Acquisition, retention and recall of information:** Students must demonstrate the ability to acquire, retain and recall information from demonstrations, lectures, written and digital materials and other sources in the areas of their degree programs appropriate for their degree requirements.

**Communication of information:** Students must demonstrate English language skills in accordance with the policy of the School of Graduate Studies at VCU. Students must communicate effectively and professionally with fellow students, faculty members and staff in both written and spoken English with scientific terminology relevant to the academic program, including in settings when the time available for communication is limited and in settings with large or small groups. Students must also demonstrate non-verbal communication skills that do not interfere with expressive or receptive verbal communication.

**Motor and sensory:** Students must demonstrate the motor and sensory skills necessary to perform tasks appropriate to and required for their training programs including, but not limited to completing written and oral examinations, standing or sitting for extended periods of time, and utilization of computers, and audiovisual equipment. Students must be able to coordinate gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and the functional use of the senses of touch and vision reasonably required to conduct laboratory experiments.

**Intellectual and cognitive:** Students must demonstrate the intellectual and cognitive skills necessary to perform actions appropriate to and required for their training program including performing calculations; following safety regulations; thinking critically, analytically and logically; generating hypotheses; integrating and synthesizing information; handling hazardous material or equipment; protecting confidential information; recording, analyzing and interpreting data; solving problems; justifying conclusions; demonstrating an awareness of and acting in accordance with their own physical and knowledge-based limitations; and reasoning deductively.

**Behavioral:** Students must demonstrate good judgment, integrity, honesty and motivation, complete all responsibilities related to their training in a timely fashion, act ethically and responsibly, demonstrate receptivity to, acknowledgement of and a productive response to constructive feedback, and develop effective, productive relationships with fellow students, faculty members and staff, including demonstrating an understanding of different perspectives. Students must adapt and function effectively in stressful, changing and uncertain environments, as required by the nature of scientific research and scholarship. Students must seek guidance from an appropriate faculty member or administrator when concerned that their potential or actual action, or that of another, interferes with their ability to demonstrate these characteristics.

Failure to achieve these standards may result in sanctions, including dismissal. All students, upon matriculation, are required to review the standards above and affirm that they have read, understood and can meet the standards.

**Accommodation**

VCU is committed to ensuring accessibility and equal access to its academic programs and provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, as set forth in the university's policy on [Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation](#). A student seeking accommodation related to technical standards must contact the VCU Division for Academic Success: <https://das.vcu.edu/>.