

## **Pre-Accreditation Element 9.1.2: Admission Policy**

### **Element Description**

A COM must establish and publish admission requirements for potential applicants to the osteopathic medical education program and must develop and apply effective policies and procedures for medical student selection and enrollment consistent with the COM's mission, vision, and values.

A COM must develop and implement policies and procedures as well as provide the human and physical resources required to support and promote health and wellness in order to meet and advance the physical, emotional, mental, career, academic and professional needs of its students, faculty, and staff. All osteopathic medical students of the COM have the same rights to and must receive comparable services.

A COM must establish and publish, to the public, admission requirements for potential applicants to the osteopathic medical education program and must use effective policies and procedures for osteopathic medical student selection for admission and enrollment, including demonstration of technical standards for admissions. A COM must tie all admissions policies to the COM mission.

Provide all admission requirements and policies and procedures for osteopathic medical student selection and enrollment.

2. Provide a copy of the technical standards required of prospective students.

### **XUCOM Narrative**

XUCOM's Technical Standards Policy is attached.

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### **XAVIER UNIVERSITY College of Osteopathic Medicine Technical Standards Policy**

**Effective:** September 1, 2025

**Last Revision:** (Date)

**Next Review:** June 30, 2026

**Responsible College Officer:** Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

**Scope:** COM Administration

**Distribution List:** XUCOM; Webpage

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#### **A. PURPOSE**

To standardize and make transparent the technical standards requirements for admissions to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program at XUCOM.

#### **B. POLICY**

Element 9.1 of the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) *New and Developing Accreditation Standards* (effective September 26, 2023; edited October 1, 2024) requires that a COM establish and publish, to the public, admission requirements for potential applicants to the osteopathic medical education program and must use effective policies and procedures for osteopathic medical student selection for admission and enrollment, including demonstration of technical standards for admissions.

#### **C. DEFINITIONS / ABBREVIATIONS**

COCA / Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation

HVLA / High-Velocity Low-Amplitude

XU / Xavier University

XUCOM / Xavier University College of Osteopathic Medicine

#### **D. PROCEDURE / PROTOCOL**

XUCOM has technical standards that are necessary to successfully complete the curriculum and to practice to the full extent of osteopathic medicine that an unlimited license provides. Students must be able to function in a variety of learning and clinical settings, and to quickly, accurately, and consistently learn and process data. Osteopathic physicians utilize palpation (clinically appropriate touching) as a component of the physical examination and as a treatment modality. As part of the educational process, XUCOM students must be able to tolerate being palpated, examined, and receive osteopathic manipulation by members of all genders, and to palpate, examine, and provide osteopathic manipulation to others (of all genders) in order to acquire the full scope of osteopathic skills necessary to provide patient care. This palpation is performed in a professional and appropriate manner.

Acquiring the skills to palpate and examine patients requires a student to examine partially disrobed patients of all genders and is mandatory for successful completion of the curriculum at XUCOM. Students are required to participate fully as both the examiner and

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examinee in various clinical laboratory experiences. In Clinical Skills and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine laboratory experiences, as well as other clinical laboratories where physical examination skills are practiced, students are required to participate in the examination of fellow students (of all genders) who may be partially disrobed.

In order to be able to gain appropriate clinical exposure to the regions being examined and areas where osteopathic manipulative techniques are to be performed, students need to wear appropriate attire and will be expected to partially disrobe for certain laboratory experiences. Details can be found in appropriate course syllabi.

Additionally, XUCOM utilizes cadavers in the gross anatomy laboratory. As such, XUCOM students must be able to tolerate working with and touching cadavers. Pregnant patients should discuss the need for appropriate respirators and gloves with the Anatomy Course Director and XU's Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources.

XUCOM students also participate in ultrasound labs and, as such, will be required to perform ultrasound examinations of fellow students (of all genders) who may be partially disrobed.

These are requirements for all students, regardless of cultural or religious beliefs, except where required by law. Students who have any concern regarding these requirements should discuss them with the COM's Office of Medical Student Services (student affairs) prior to applying for admission.

XUCOM is committed to patient safety and assuring a safe and effective environment that does not place patients, students, or others at unnecessary risk. Each Technical Standard has been chosen from standards osteopathic physicians deem necessary for the safe and effective practice of osteopathic medicine.

***Applicants who do not meet the Technical Standards Requirements should not apply to XUCOM.***

**The technical standards requirements are requisite abilities and skills in the following five (5) areas:**

### **1. Observation**

The student must be able to visually observe laboratory demonstrations, microscopic tissue with the aid of the microscope, and electronic images used in classroom presentations and laboratory demonstrations. The student must be able to visually and accurately observe physical signs and discuss patients' symptoms used in the diagnosis and clinical management of illness.

The use of a trained intermediary in such cases would compromise learning opportunities and performance, as it would be mediated by another individual's power of selection, observation, and experience. Observation requires the functional use of vision and somatic sensations and is often enhanced by the sense of smell.

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### **2. Communication**

The student must be able to communicate effectively in English, as the curriculum and clinical experiences are offered exclusively in English. Students are encouraged to learn other languages for medical communication; however, the entire curriculum and all assessment exercises are provided in English. XUCOM requires the functional ability to speak, hear, and observe patients to elicit accurate medical information. The student must be able to both describe changes in mood, activity, posture, and other physical characteristics and to perceive nonverbal communication.

The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in verbal and written form. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with patients, regardless of age, gender, disability, national origin and with all members of the healthcare team in order to successfully complete the curriculum.

### **3. Motor and Sensory**

The student must have sufficient motor and sensory function to gather information from patients through the performance of palpation, percussion, and other diagnostic measures. The student must have sufficient motor function to carry out maneuvers of general and emergent medical care and of osteopathic manipulation. Examples of emergent motor functions include, but are not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, placement of central venous access, administration of intravenous fluids and intravenous medications, management of an obstructed airway, hemorrhage control, wound closure by suturing, and obstetrical deliveries.

In addition, osteopathic manipulation requires the use of the provider's extremities in palpation, positioning, and carrying out treatment maneuvers. These actions require fine and gross motor control, as well as the sense of touch and adequate vision for inspection.

Students must be able to generate sufficient force and be able to receive these same forces to successfully learn and provide effective osteopathic manipulative treatments for all techniques taught in the curriculum, which include, but are not limited to, muscle energy, counterstrain, Still Technique, and high-velocity, low amplitude (HVLA).

### **4. Intellectual**

The student must have the ability to reason, calculate, analyze, measure, and synthesize information delivered in a variety of formats, including, but not limited to, electronic/digital sources, EKGs, medical images, and similar modalities. The student must be able to comprehend, learn, synthesize, and recall a large amount of information without assistance from another or via technology to successfully complete the curriculum.

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The student must be able to comprehend and understand/apply three-dimensional and spatial relationships to successfully complete the curriculum and apply fundamental concepts to the provision of patient care. The student must be able to acquire and synthesize knowledge through various types of learning materials and formats utilized in the XUCOM curriculum. In addition, students must be able to perform pattern recognition, recall information, identify and discriminate important information, problem solve, calculate, and make decisions in closely timed situations and in the presence of noise and distractions.

The aforementioned abilities are essential, as students and graduates are required to perform pattern recognition, immediate recall of learned material, discrimination to elicit important information, problem solving, and decision-making in the emergent diagnosis and treatment of patients. Students must be able to recall and apply important information to generate a differential diagnosis and to develop a therapeutic management plan for emergent conditions. This type of demonstrated intellectual ability must be performed in a rapid and time-efficient manner to provide appropriate care to patients with emergent conditions.

It is common for emergent situations to occur in the presence of visually distracting and noisy environments. Such emergent situations include, but are not limited to, cardiopulmonary compromise, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, obstetrical and neonatal emergencies, trauma presentations, toxic exposures, shock, and hemorrhage.

### **5. Behavioral and Social Attributes**

The student must possess the emotional health needed for full use of their intellectual capabilities at all times. The emotional health required for effective communication and professional, mature, sensitive, and compassionate patient/physician or patient/student relationships must be present at all times.

Students must be able to function effectively under stress and with physically taxing workloads, such as during lectures, labs, written and practical examinations, and clinical rotations. Students must have the emotional stability and motivation to deliver appropriate patient care and to make emergent decisions at all times.

The ability to adapt to changing environments and stressful situations and to display compassion and integrity, while maintaining the necessary intellectual capacity to care for patients, is evaluated during the Applicant Day and throughout the student's progress in the medical school curriculum.

An ability to demonstrate the emotional health necessary for the delivery of quality and safe medical care is mandatory throughout medical school. XUCOM considers drug and alcohol addiction use or abuse a significant risk factor for providing unsafe patient care

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and poor patient outcomes. As such, XUCOM has developed policies regarding alcohol and substance abuse.

Applicants must report to the Office of Student Affairs any areas where there is a question regarding their ability to meet the Technical Standards. If an applicant has a question about their ability to meet the minimal Technical Standards, the applicant is required to notify the Office of Student Affairs in advance of applying.

**An offer of acceptance may be rescinded should an accepted applicant NOT meet the Technical Standards Requirements for Admission to XUCOM, or be found to not be able to meet the Technical Standards Requirements following matriculation. The financial impact of a rescinded offer of acceptance, if any, is to be discussed with the Office of the Bursar.**

**For matriculated students, inability to maintain compliance with educational training Technical Standards may result in dismissal from the program.**

If an applicant attests through their signature that they meet the Technical Standards for admission, but it is discovered after matriculation that the student signed one or more attestations knowing they did not meet these minimum standards, the student may subject to disciplinary process and receive sanctions up to and including dismissal from the program.

### **E. EXHIBITS**

- XUCOM Catalog
- XUCOM Student Handbook

### **F. RELATED POLICY/POLICIES**

- Admissions Process: Application Policy
- Admissions Process: Selection and Enrollment

### **G. REVIEW SCHEDULE**

- Annually (before June 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Involved Parties: XUCOM Dean; XUCOM Dean's Council; Admissions Committee

This Policy may be reviewed and changes made at any time.

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09/01/2025

Dean’s Approval/Signature

Date

| Date Revised | Description of Changes | Date Approved |
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