

## Inherent Requirements

These inherent requirements apply to the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and this document has been developed to ensure that all enrolled students and prospective students understand what will be expected of them to meet the registration standards set by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

### Introduction

The Curtin Medical School MBBS course aims to provide its graduates with the skills, knowledge and competencies required for the practice of medicine as a junior doctor (intern).

It is recognised that there are certain inherent requirements or abilities that are necessary to progress through the curriculum and successfully complete the medical course. They also form the foundation for future career options and continuous self-directed learning.

The following are the skills and abilities that the Medical School considers essential for completing medical school training and for enabling each graduate to enter residency and clinical practice. These requirements are what students must demonstrate to meet the standards of general medical education, and hence are pre-requisites for entrance, progression and graduation.

Students intending to enrol in the MBBS at Curtin Medical School are expected to review the following statements to assess the challenges they may experience in meeting these requirements. These statements are not intended to preclude individuals with a disability.

The inherent requirements should be read in conjunction with other course information as well as Medical Board of Australia (MBA) publications: Guidelines for Mandatory Notification and Good Medical Practice – A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia.

After enrolment, as a medical student, you are required to inform Curtin Medical School immediately of any condition/changed ability that may impact your ability to meet the inherent requirements or graduate outcomes.

### Inherent Requirements – Curtin Medical School

With appropriate support and reasonable accommodation, a medical student must possess the ability to develop the inherent requirements discussed below in order to successfully complete the medical course.

#### Professional and Ethical Behaviours

1. Adhere to the applicable Codes, Guidelines and Policies of the Medical Board of Australia, the Medical Council of New Zealand and other relevant statutory authorities at all times to enable safe delivery of care.
  - Comply with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements.
  - Comply with professional conduct and health organisation policies and procedures.

- Adhere to infection control procedures and testing and immunisation requirements.
- 2. Behave ethically at all times including in times of significant stress. Place patient care above own interests and maintain high ethical standards and professional boundaries.
- 3. Apply good judgement and achieve timely completion of all responsibilities for the diagnosis and care of patients.
- 4. Respond appropriately to feedback and have appropriate insight and judgements into own abilities, limitations and health.
- 5. Maintain life-long learning behaviours.
- 6. Dress appropriately and safely in the clinical workplace.

### **Communication Skills**

Communication skills required include speech, hearing, observation, reading and writing.

1. Communicate in English accurately and efficiently verbally, in writing and using electronic devices, with patients and members of health care teams.
2. Communicate with and observe patients in order to effectively and efficiently elicit information, describe mood, activity and posture, and perceive non-verbal communication (such as cues including emotional changes and distress), as well as establish rapport and trust with patients and colleagues.
3. Communicate effectively and sensitively with others irrespective of their sex, age, culture, lifestyle, sexual orientation, spiritual beliefs or disabilities, including patients, families and any member of the health care team and display respect, empathy and compassion.
4. Provide clinical documentation in an accurate, concise and timely fashion that meets professional standards.
5. Understand and participate effectively in educational and clinical discussions.

### **Knowledge and Cognitive Skills**

Consistent and effective knowledge and cognitive skills must be demonstrated to provide safe and competent medical care.

1. Process, recall and apply appropriate and relevant information in a timely manner.
2. Measure, calculate and reason in order to analyse and synthesise information.
3. Solve complex problems by obtaining, synthesizing and evaluating appropriate and relevant information.
4. Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.
5. Engage in scientific and clinical reasoning.

### **Mobility and Motor Skills**

1. Safely perform a physical examination on a patient, including palpation, auscultation and percussion so that the important and relevant findings are discovered. The examination must be done in a timely manner.
2. Safely and effectively perform basic and advanced life support on a patient.
3. Use common diagnostic aids or instruments either directly or in an adaptive form (e.g. sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, auroscope, otoscope and ophthalmoscope).
4. Provide general and emergency medical care to patients.
5. Safely perform certain procedural skills such as airway positioning, skin suturing, intravenous cannulation and bladder catheter insertion in a timely and dexterous manner.

6. Perform actions that require coordination of both gross and fine motor muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

### **Sensory Abilities**

1. Perform a physical examination using visual acuity to note changes in skin colour, recognise visual signs of airway obstruction; touch to palpate pulse, feel skin temperature; hearing to detect auditory signs of airway obstruction, Korotkoff (blood pressure) sounds, heart sounds, abnormal lung sounds and murmurs.

### **Interpersonal and Social Interactions**

1. Tolerate the physical, emotional and mental demands of the course and function effectively under stress. (I.e. manage own physical and mental health effectively).
2. Develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients.
3. Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to work effectively when faced with the uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.
4. Display personal qualities of compassion, integrity, concern for others, interest and motivation.
5. Respect personal and professional boundaries.
6. Adapt to changing environments and function when faced with the uncertainties that are inherent in the care of patients.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Curtin University strongly supports the inclusion and assistance of students with disabilities by providing reasonable adjustments to teaching and assessment processes and the rights of all people who wish to pursue a medical course at the Medical School. The University is committed to making reasonable adjustments to teaching and assessment processes, clinical practice and other activities to address the impact of students' disability so that they can participate in their course.

Refer to the following link for more information:

[http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/accommodating\\_students\\_with\\_disabilities.htm](http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/accommodating_students_with_disabilities.htm)

### **Source of Information**

*Flinders University Medical Course Fact Sheet: Inherent Requirements Statement (Dec 2014); University of Adelaide Inherent Requirements Statements for the MBBS Program; Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) Review of Inherent Requirements in Medical Education (including University of Western Sydney Inherent Requirements for Medicine and the Higher Education Occupations Physicians/Practitioners document on Medical Students Fitness Standards); Harvard Medical School Technical Standards for Medical School Admission, Continuation and Graduation Policy; The University of Sydney Inherent Requirements for Course in Medicine.*