

# Inherent requirements for studying Medicine at Flinders University

The following information is reproduced from the Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) document "Inherent requirements for studying medicine in Australia and New Zealand", 2017.

## Knowledge and cognitive skills

Consistent and effective knowledge and cognitive skills must be demonstrated to provide safe and competent medical care. Medical students must be able to process knowledge and cognition in a rapid and timely manner appropriate to the clinical context.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate the:

1. Capacity to locate appropriate and relevant information
2. Ability to process information relevant to practice
3. Ability to integrate and implement knowledge in practice

At entry a medical student's knowledge and cognition will be assessed by a variety of means including, for example, ATAR, GPA, UMAT and GAMSAT amongst other assessments.\*

\*Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking, Grade Point Average, Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admission Test, Graduate Australian Medical School Admission Test

During the medical course a medical student's knowledge and cognition will be assessed by performance in assessments and during small group and clinical teaching

## Literacy

Competent literacy skills are essential to provide safe and effective delivery of medical care.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate the:

1. Ability to accurately acquire information and convey appropriate, effective messages
2. Ability to read and comprehend a range of literature and information
3. Capacity to understand and implement academic conventions and to construct written text in a scholarly manner

At entry a medical student's literacy will be assessed by a variety of means including, for example, ATAR, GPA, UMAT and GAMSAT and performance in selection interviews.

During the medical course a medical student's literacy will be assessed by performance in assessments and during small group and clinical teaching.

## Numeracy

Competent and accurate numeracy skills are essential for safe and effective patient care.

A medical student is expected to

Interpret and correctly apply data, measurements and numerical criteria. Prescribe safely and effectively including calculating drug dosages. At entry a medical student's numeracy will be assessed by a variety of means including, for example, ATAR, GPA, UMAT and GAMSAT.

During the course a medical student's numeracy will be assessed by performance in assessments and during small group and clinical teaching.

## Verbal Communication

Effective and efficient verbal communication, in English, is an essential requirement to provide safe delivery of care during medical training.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

1. The ability to understand and respond to verbal communication accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner
2. The ability to provide clear and timely instructions in the context of the situation
3. Speak English clearly

Note: IELTS 7.0 (or other standard as promulgated) is required by AHPRA for international students at the point of commencing internship. One promulgated criterion Higher Education Occupational Physicians/Practitioners (HEOPS)<sup>3</sup> is the ability to be understood at 3 m in a quiet room

At entry verbal communication can be assessed during selection interviews (if used) or by other measures.

During the course a student's verbal communication will be assessed during assessments and teaching episodes.

## Non-verbal Communication

Effective non-verbal communication is fundamental to medicine and needs to be respectful, clear, attentive, empathetic, honest and non-judgemental.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

1. The capacity to recognise, interpret and respond appropriately to non-verbal cues
2. Consistent and appropriate awareness of own non-verbal behaviours

At entry non-verbal communication can be assessed during selection interviews (if used) or by other measures.



## Written Communication

Effective written communication is a fundamental medical responsibility with professional and legal ramifications.

A medical student is expected to

1. Demonstrate capacity to construct coherent written communication appropriate to the circumstances.
2. Record and communicate their thoughts in a timely manner
3. Complete medical records, reports and letters in a timely manner

At entry written communication can be assessed as part of the selection processes.

During the course a student's written communication will be assessed during written examinations and during teaching episodes.

## Vision

Adequate visual acuity is required to provide safe and effective medical care.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate

Sufficient visual acuity to perform the required range of skills, including

- a. Reading small print on ampoules or similar
- b. Reading a monitor across a bed
- c. Responding to visual alarms

Note: One set of promulgated criteria (HEOPS) state that a visual acuity with maximal correction of N8 and/ or 6/18 (or better) is required for the practice of medicine.

Students whose vision is insufficient to meet these criteria or who have significant other visual problems (such as visual field defects, nystagmus, etc) may require assessment by an ophthalmologist.

At entry a medical student's visual difficulties will be documented through self-declaration.

During the course a medical student's visual difficulties will become apparent during assessments and clinical training.

During the course a student's non-verbal communication will be assessed during assessments and teaching episodes.

## Hearing

Adequate auditory ability is required to provide effective and safe medical care.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

1. Sufficient aural function to undertake the required range of tasks.
2. The ability to work effectively in the emergency situation

Note: One set of promulgated criteria (HEOPS) state the following.

A student, wearing functioning hearing aids (if required), should demonstrate

1. The ability to understand the human voice at 1 m.
2. Less than 40 db loss across speech frequencies.

At entry a medical student's hearing difficulties will be documented through self-declaration or during the selection interview.

During the course a medical student's hearing difficulties will become apparent during assessments, small group teaching and clinical training.

## Touch

Sufficient tactile ability is required to perform competent and safe medical care.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

1. Sufficient fine touch to undertake the required range of skills and clinical assessments, such as palpation of vessels and organs, and to estimate the size of skin lesions

At entry a medical student's difficulties with touch will be documented through self-declaration.

During the course a medical student's difficulties with touch will become apparent during assessments and clinical training.

## Mobility and gross motor skills

Mobility and gross motor skills are required in medicine to undertake appropriate clinical care.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

The ability to perform gross motor skills to undertake a full physical examination, and to function within scope of practice  
The ability to assist in the management of medical emergencies when required

One set of promulgated criteria (HEOPS) indicate a student must

Demonstrate the ability to undertake a full physical examination avoiding injury to patients, colleagues and self

Possess one fully functional arm and the other capable of providing support  
At entry a medical student's impaired mobility will be apparent through self-declaration or during the selection interview.

During the course a medical student's impaired mobility will become apparent during clinical skills training and clinical practice.

## Fine motor skills

Medicine is a profession that requires manual dexterity, and possession of fine motor skills is fundamental in providing adequate clinical care.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

1. The ability to use fine motor skills to provide safe effective diagnosis, treatment and clinical care.
2. The ability to undertake a full physical examination without harming patient or self.
3. One fully functional arm and the other capable of providing support.

Medical students, by the end of their training should be able to carry out the following: venepuncture; wound suture; intravenous cannulation, and other practical procedures as determined by the School.

At entry a medical student with impaired fine motor skills will be documented through self-declaration or during the selection interview.

During the course a medical student with impaired fine motor skills will become apparent during assessments, clinical skills training and clinical practice.

student's inability to sustain performance will be documented through self-declaration.

During the course a medical student's difficulties with sustainable performance will become apparent during the course.

### **Interruptions to consciousness**

Medical practice requires the student to be conscious and aware at all times when interacting with patients. Unexpected interruptions to consciousness place patients at risk.

A medical student is expected to demonstrate:

That there must be no significant risk of interruptions of consciousness that would present a risk to patients

At entry a medical student's experience of interruptions to consciousness will be documented through self-declaration.

During the course a medical student's difficulties with interruptions to consciousness will become apparent during the course.

### **Ethical behaviour**

Medical students are part of a profession governed by codes, guidelines and policies where students (and practitioners) are both accountable and responsible for ensuring professional behaviour in all contexts.

A medical student is expected to

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
2. Behave ethically at all times including times of significant stress
3. Satisfactorily complete the required Criminal Record Check and self-declaration

At entry all medical students will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check and (if required) a self-declaration of previous ethical and/or dishonest behaviour. The self-declaration is to be in line with that completed by each registered practitioner at the time of re-registration. If there are previous misdemeanours, the onus will be on the student to convince the School that such misdemeanours no longer pose a substantial risk.

During the course medical students are required to

- Complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC) as required – currently every three years (NZ)
- Complete a self-declaration at the commencement of each academic year
- Monitor and manage own health  
Behavioural stability is the ability of a medical student to monitor and manage their own mental and physical health.

Behavioural stability is required to function and adapt effectively and sensitively in a demanding role.

A medical student is expected to

1. Demonstrate sufficient behavioural stability in order to work constructively in a diverse and changing academic and clinical environment
2. Display the resilience and flexibility to satisfactorily deal with the demands of being a medical student
3. Monitor their own health and behaviour and to seek help when required

At entry all medical students can demonstrate their ability to meet this requirement by self-declaration.

During the course medical students will demonstrate their compliance with this requirement through annual self-declaration and by assessment of their behaviour.

### **Legal**

Medical practice is mandated by specific legislation to enable the safe delivery of care.

A medical student is expected to comply with Australian or New Zealand Law, professional regulations and scope of practice.

At entry all medical students must complete a Criminal Record Check.

During the course medical students can demonstrate compliance with annual self-declaration at the time of entry into the clinical setting.

## **Looking for more information?**

### **Contact us**

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