

SCHEDULE A: STATEMENT OF INHERENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BMBS

Medical education is a continuum from entry into medical school to lifelong continuing education after completion of formal postgraduate training. Medical students are required to attend tutorials, lectures, practical classes and clinical placements in the first part of the medical course and then to complete a period of clinical training in a variety of health service sites (eg hospitals, general practices) in the second half of the course. Attendance is compulsory for most of these teaching and learning activities.

A significant component of the curriculum is delivered on-line. Students must pass written and clinical examinations in all major areas of medical practice (eg surgery, women's health, mental health, children's health) before they are allowed to practise. These examinations assess scientific and clinical knowledge, clinical and communication skills, and professional attitudes and behaviour.

Graduates must complete an accredited intern year to obtain full registration. Most then undertake a period of residency and postgraduate training in clinical settings, which continues for at least four years. Graduates are usually required to pass rigorous postgraduate written and clinical examinations during this period of training.

Medical training is very expensive and there is strong competition for a limited number of medical school places. The community provides most of the funds for medical training and has a reasonable expectation that this investment results in appropriately trained medical professionals, who are capable of delivering high quality medical care.

Deakin Medical School restricts admission to applicants who are capable of completing the medical course. Applicants who have concerns about the possible impact of any disability or chronic illness should contact the School to discuss their circumstances and whether it would be feasible to make adjustments to accommodate their needs.

A number of capabilities are essential to complete the course and practise medicine.

1. *Motor Function*

Students must possess adequate motor and tactile function to use a computer, to participate in practical classes and to perform a full physical examination, including detection of abnormalities by palpation or percussion. They must be able to use a stethoscope, an auroscope, an ophthalmoscope, a tendon hammer and a sphygmomanometer. They also must be able to perform a number of key clinical procedures, including but not limited to; venipuncture and insertion of an intravenous cannula, arterial puncture, wound suturing, assistance at operative procedures and insertion of a urinary catheter. Further information is available from the School of Medicine.

2. *Communication Skills*

Medical practice requires advanced oral and written communication skills. Practitioners need to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, relatives and carers from all walks of life, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religious beliefs or physical or psychological disability. An ability to gather, synthesise and evaluate information by verbal, written, pictorial and non-verbal means of communication is essential. Medical practitioners must also be capable of delivering concise, comprehensible written and verbal advice to patients, relatives, carers and colleagues.

Key learning formats or clinical skills required in the course include inability to: participate in Problem Based Learning or clinical tutorials, answer written or oral examination questions, take and record a full medical history, complete a full medical examination, deliver an oral summary of a patient's clinical findings, complete a drug chart or prescription, or access on-line clinical information in clinical settings.

3. Social Skills and Behavioural Attributes

The Deakin medical course includes a strong emphasis on professional behaviour. Progression through the course and graduation is contingent on passing regular assessments of professional attitudes and behaviour because these are essential for medical practice.

On enrolment, students are required to sign their agreement to comply with the Deakin Medical School Code of Conduct as a condition of entry to the course. The Code of Conduct ensures professional behaviour by the student in the academic and clinical environment. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will lead to referral to the School of Medicine Professional Standard Subcommittee or, in cases of student misconduct, referral to the Chair of the Deakin University General Misconduct Committee in accordance with Regulation 4.1(1).

Medical students must be willing to complete a full physical examination of male or female patients. They must be able to maintain professional relationships with all patients and colleagues and to complete demanding workloads under stressful conditions. They should also be able to recognize situations where their emotional or physical state precludes delivery of effective care.

Students must be able to work collaboratively at all stages of the medical course. Applicants must be compassionate and emotionally robust. They must be prepared to put patient care above their own interests, and to maintain confidentiality and high ethical standards.

4. Intellectual or Learning Ability

The medical course is demanding and requires high level intellectual and cognitive skills. Capacity to solve complex problems is required during Problem Based Learning tutorials and in clinical environments. Good medical practice requires the ability to synthesize and respond to complex oral, written and pictorial information. Practitioners are required to memorize considerable amounts of material and to perform mathematical calculations for diagnosis and therapy. Ability to understand three dimensional relationships is essential for anatomy, imaging and clinical examination and procedures.

5. Infectious Diseases

Students and medical practitioners are a potential source of infection for patients and colleagues, particularly for immunocompromised patients. Deakin Medical School has developed an Infectious Diseases Policy to reduce this risk. All students are required to sign a statement that they will adhere to this policy as a condition of entry into the course. The main features of the policy are:

- adherence to infection control procedures, including hand-washing, aseptic technique, disposal of sharps and clinical waste, use of single-use only equipment, sterilisation and disinfection of re-usable equipment, use of personal protective equipment and managing patients in various forms of isolation.

- compliance with an immunisation program against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), varicella (chicken pox), hepatitis A, hepatitis B and influenza.
- testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- students who are infected with a blood-borne virus must consult a specialist medical practitioner to assess their medical condition and determine which clinical activities they can perform within accepted professional standards. Confidential advice may be sought from the Medical Practitioners' Board of Victoria, which may impose restrictions on course-related activities and subsequent medical practice.
- adherence to University and health service protocols following exposure to blood or other body fluids.
- The Infectious Diseases Policy is available from the School of Medicine.