

BOUCHER INSTITUTE POLICY

Policy Title: Essential Abilities and Skills of Naturopathic Medical Students and Physicians

Date of Initial Board Approval: May 26, 2008

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Person(s) Responsible for Implementation & Adherence: Admissions Committee, Dean's Council

Related Procedures: Educational Guidelines

The Boucher Institute is aware of its responsibilities to patients who will be a part of the educational process and to future patients who will entrust their welfare to BINM graduates. As such, the below defined essential abilities and skills for naturopathic medical school students and for physicians will be used by the Admissions Committee and / or Dean's Council as appropriate, as criteria for admission to Boucher Institute's naturopathic medicine program, for advancement through the program and as requirements for recommendation for graduation from the program.*

A candidate for the ND diploma must have specific abilities and skills in five essential areas:

1. Observation
2. Communication
3. Motor
4. Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative
5. Behavioural, Social and Ethical

Technological compensation may be made for disabilities in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary to observe or interpret information or to perform procedures is deemed to compromise the essential function of the physician and may jeopardize the safety of the patient.

Details of the essential abilities and skills follow:

1. *Observation*, including the capacity to combine visual, auditory and tactile information, enhanced by olfactory and taste sensations, to accurately observe patients both at a distance and close at hand, and to participate fully in the educational process.
2. *Communication*, including facility to:
 - a. communicate effectively, sensitively and efficiently in oral and written form with patients, family members and all members of the health care team;
 - b. describe a patient's illness, complaint or condition, in writing as well as verbally; and

- c. perceive and comprehend both verbal and non-verbal communication from the patient.
3. *Motor skills*, including an ability to safely perform a comprehensive physical examination and specific diagnostic tests and procedures to gain information. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide
 - a. general naturopathic care, such as manipulation, acupuncture and intravenous treatments, and
 - b. emergency treatment to patients, including CPR, administration of IV medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding and opening of obstructed airways.
 - c. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. *Conceptual skills*, including faculties to use cognition, memory and good judgment to rapidly analyze and synthesize information, solve problems and make timely and effective clinical decisions.
5. *Behavioural, social and ethical skills*, encompassing a range of capacities to:
 - a. develop a mature, sensitive approach to working with patients, families and colleagues;
 - b. possess the physical and emotional health required for the application of requisite intellectual abilities;
 - c. promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients;
 - d. perform effectively under stress;
 - e. show compassion; and
 - f. display motivation.
 - g. In addition, as a representative of the naturopathic profession, a candidate must demonstrate professional demeanor and behaviour, and must perform in an ethical manner in all dealings with peers, faculty, staff, and patients and in society at large. Please refer to the BINM *Standards of Student Conduct Policy* and to the CAND *Guide to the Ethical Conduct of Naturopathic Doctors*, developed and adopted by the CAND in May 1994.

**Adapted from the 1979 report of the Special Advisory Panel on Technical Standards for Medical School Admission convened by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to examine and make recommendations concerning the issue of medical students with disabilities.*