

BOUCHER INSTITUTE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE POLICY

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

Date of Initial Board Approval: May 26, 2008

Date of Last Approved Revision: August 20, 2018

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

Related Policies and Procedures: Student Accommodation and Support Policy and Procedure, Academic Standing Policy and Procedure, Completion Requirements Policy

The Boucher Institute is responsible to society for providing a program of study that graduates naturopathic physicians with the knowledge, skills professional behaviours and attitudes necessary for independent practice. For this reason, students in the naturopathic medical program must possess the cognitive, communication, sensory, motor and social skills necessary to interview, examine and counsel patients, and competently complete certain technical procedures in a reasonable time while ensuring patient safety.

In addition to obtaining a naturopathic degree, an individual must pass the licensure examinations of the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) in order to practice. Therefore, naturopathic programs have embedded expectations of competencies both knowledge and skills based. Prospective candidates should be aware that cognitive abilities, physical examination proficiencies, management skills, communication ability and professional behaviours are all evaluated in timed simulations of patient encounters.

All students must therefore have the required skills and abilities described in the following section on Technical Standards. These technical standards will be used by the Admissions Committee and / or Dean's Council as appropriate; as criteria for admission to BINM's naturopathic medicine program, for advancement through the program and as requirements for recommendation for graduation from the naturopathic medical program.

The naturopathic medical curriculum is cumulative and integrative in nature, and each year has different requirements. In general, students are expected to complete the program within four years with a maximum of 7 years for completion. Students with a disability may be granted additional time, with disability accommodation being considered on a case-by-case and year-by-year basis.

Technical Standards for Students in the Naturopathic Medical Program

Observation

A student must be able to participate in learning situations that require skills of observation. In particular, a student must be able to accurately observe a patient and acquire all relevant sensory information, 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.

Communication

Students must be able to communicate with patients in order to effectively and efficiently elicit verbal and non-verbal information, pertinent to the patients' medical history and physical examination. Students must communicate effectively, sensitively and efficiently in oral and written form with patients, family members and all members of the health care team. A student must be able to describe a patient's illness, complaint or condition.

Motor skills

A student must have sufficient motor function to safely perform common medical procedures. In addition, a student must be willing and able to provide general and emergency medical care to patients, including the performance of relevant procedures at any time, day or night. Students must have the ability to safely perform a comprehensive physical examination and specific diagnostic tests and procedures to gain information. Students must be able to perform a physical examination on a patient, including palpation, auscultation, and percussion, independently and in a timely fashion. Students must be able to use common diagnostic aids or instruments, either directly or in an adaptive form (eg. ophthalmoscope, otoscope, sphygmomanometer, and stethoscope)

A student must be able to safely perform;

- General naturopathic care, such as manipulation, acupuncture and intravenous treatments
- Emergency treatment to patients, including CPR, administration of IV medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding and opening of obstructed airways.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

A student must demonstrate the cognitive skills and memory necessary to measure, calculate, and reason in order to analyze, integrate and synthesize

information in order that competence may be achieved in key areas in diagnosis and management of patients. In addition, a student must be able to comprehend dimensional and spatial relationships. All of these problem-solving activities must be completed in a timely fashion.

Behavioural, Social and Ethical Skills,

A student must consistently demonstrate the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities. The application of good judgment and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients are necessary.

A student must be able to tolerate the physical, emotional and mental demands of the program and function effectively under stress. The conditions that may arise in the course of the program include, but are not limited to, prolonged hours of work, unpredictable hours and demands, and distractions from people and the environment. Adaptability to changing environments and the ability to function in the face of uncertainties that are inherent in the care of patients are necessary traits of a student.

A student must consistently display integrity, honesty, empathy, compassion, fairness, respect for others and dedication.

As well the naturopathic medical student must demonstrate the capacity to develop a mature, sensitive approach to working with patients, families and colleagues regardless of a patient's age, gender, race,

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, patients and in society at large.

Students with Disabilities

As per the BINM Student Support and Accommodation Policy, the Boucher Institute is committed to diversity and recognizes its moral and legal duty to provide reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Each student with disability is entitled to accommodation in accordance with the BINM Student Support and Accommodation Policy, the BC Human Rights code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While accommodations will be made to assist a student to meet the technical standards and facilitate his/her progress, such accommodation cannot compromise patient safety and well-being. Also, accommodation cannot compromise the educational environment or sustainability of the program (eg. by requiring excessive financial or other resources).

