Technical Standards for School of Medicine Advanced Degree Students:

Students must meet the technical standards below for admission to and graduation from the advanced degree programs of the School of Medicine. VCU acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

A student for an advanced degree must possess, exhibit and utilize skills in the five major areas below. A student who believes they may qualify for reasonable accommodations regarding these five areas must contact the appropriate office at VCU. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate’s judgment must be mediated by someone else’s power of selection and observation; therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the five skill areas below.

I. Observation: Students must be able to observe demonstrations in the areas of their degree programs such as experiments in animals, microbiologic cultures, microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states, statistical analyses and data mining.

II. Communication: Students should be able to speak, read, write and understand spoken English. Students must be able to communicate effectively and professionally with fellow students, faculty members and staff. Students should be able to effectively communicate in settings when the time span available for communication is limited.

III. Motor: Students should have the motor skills required to perform research and other actions related to their training programs. Examples of these skills include but are not limited to the ability to prepare and manipulate samples, operate laboratory instruments, monitor experiments in progress, write computer code or script, and record experimental or other outcomes.

IV. Intellectual: Students should be intellectually equipped to perform actions such as measuring, calculating, reasoning, analyzing, synthesizing information and problem solving.

V. Behavioral: Students must possess the emotional health required to exhibit good judgment, integrity and motivation; complete all responsibilities related to their training in a timely fashion; and develop effective, respectful relationships with fellow students, faculty members and staff. Students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the nature of advanced degree training.

My signature below certifies that I have read, understand and can meet the technical standards above.

_________________________________ V _____________________________
Print Name Student ID Number

Approved by the School of Medicine Graduate Programs Committee: pending