



# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Medicine

Operating Policy and Procedure

- SOM OP:** 40.11 **Technical Standards for Admission, Retention, and Graduation**
- PURPOSE:** The purpose of this School of Medicine (SOM) Operating Policy is to explain the nonacademic standards of the SOM.
- REVIEW:** This SOM Operating Policy will be reviewed each odd-numbered fiscal year by the Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee. Revisions will be forwarded to the Office of the Dean for publication.

## **POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

1. **General.** The School of Medicine faculty has developed minimum standards for entry into and progression through the medical curriculum. These standards provide guidance to achieve the Doctor of Medicine degree in preparation for licensure as a practicing physician and for postgraduate training. Throughout the medical education process, patient safety is of primary consideration.

### **LCME Element 10.5: Technical Standards**

*A medical school develops and publishes technical standards for the admission, retention, and graduation of applicants or medical students in accordance with legal requirements.*

2. **Definition:**
  - The term *technical standards* refers to all nonacademic requirements a medical school applicant or enrolled medical student must possess or be able to acquire, with or without reasonable accommodation, in order to be admitted to, be retained in, and graduate from any SOM program.
  - The term *student* refers to all medical school applicants or enrolled medical students of any SOM program.
3. **Technical Standards:**
  - a. As a component of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), the SOM is committed to equal educational opportunity and nondiscrimination consistent with [HSC OP 77.14](#). Importantly, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine is committed to the education of all qualified individuals, including persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, are capable of performing the essential functions required of all medical students. The following technical standards describe the essential abilities required for matriculation, promotion, and graduation at the TTUHSC School of Medicine.
  - b. Because graduation with an M.D. degree signifies the recipient is a physician prepared for entry into the practice of medicine within the U.S. graduate medical education and licensure framework, students in any of the SOM M.D. degree programs are expected to acquire a broad foundation of medical knowledge and skills that generally supports and facilitates this progression. According to the LCME, technical standards for admission, retention, and graduation of applicants or medical students are 1) essential academic and non-academic abilities, attributes, and characteristics in the areas of intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; 2) observational skills; 3) physical abilities; 4) motor functioning; 5) emotional stability; 6) behavioral and social skills; and 7) ethics and professionalism that a medical school applicant or enrolled medical student must possess or be able to acquire, with

or without reasonable accommodation, in order to be admitted to, be retained in, and graduate from that school's medical educational program (Element 10.5). In addition, as students interact with patients throughout their medical education program, the SOM has an ethical responsibility for the safety of the patients with whom students and graduates will come in contact. Patient safety and well-being are, therefore, major factors in establishing nonacademic requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. As such, all students must meet or acquire certain technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations (Standard 10: Medical Student Selection, Assignment, and Progress; LCME, April 2022):

- **Observational skills:** A student must be able to demonstrate functional use of sensory systems, including vision, hearing, touch, and smell to be able to obtain a medical history and perform a complete physical examination in order to integrate findings based on these observations and to develop an appropriate diagnostic and treatment plan.
- **Communication:** Students should be able to communicate with patients, their families, colleagues, and all members of the health care team in order to elicit information, to detect changes in mood and activity, and to establish a therapeutic relationship. Students should be able to communicate via English effectively and sensitively with patients and all members of the health care team both in person and in writing.
- **Intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities:** A student must be able to problem-solve effectively and rapidly, learn, reason, calculate, formulate and test hypotheses, memorize, process, analyze, rapidly integrate and synthesize information and apply information in an environment of high stress and distraction. A student must be able to make critical judgments based on evidence and experience.
- **Examination, Diagnostic, and Procedural Skills:** Candidates must possess the capacity to perform all medical and diagnostic procedures considered essential for the area of practice, including physical examinations and diagnostic maneuvers. They must be able to respond to emergent or urgent situations in a timely manner and provide general and emergency care. They must adhere to universal precaution measures and meet safety standards applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings and other clinical activities.
- **Behavioral and social skills:** Students should possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgement, the prompt completion of all responsibility's attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, fellow students, faculty and staff. Students should be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They should be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, professionalism, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are expected during the education processes.
- **Ethics and professionalism:** A student must exercise professional judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to their academic work, teamwork, and patient care. A student must respond appropriately and professionally under stressful situations, and maintain safe practice and sound clinical judgement. A student must accept formative feedback from others, and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. A student must demonstrate compassion and respect for human dignity and rights and safeguard patient confidences and privacy in accordance with HIPAA. A student should disseminate medical information that provides benefit to the patient first, without allowing competing considerations, beliefs or interests to take precedence.

#### **4. Acceptance of Technical Standards**

- a. If a candidate accepts an offer of admission, the candidate must then sign a form acknowledging that they have read this policy and that they are aware that the program's technical standards must be met with or without reasonable accommodation.
- b. All students must re-confirm their understanding of the expectations of this policy prior to beginning clinical rotations in Phase 2 of the curriculum.

#### **5. Requests for Accommodations**

- a. Learners with disabilities are encouraged to disclose their disability and request accommodations that would enable them to complete the medical school curriculum. Requests for accommodation(s) are confidential and are submitted to the TTUHSC Office of [Student Disability Services](#). Requests for accommodations may be submitted at any point during a semester, including requests by students related to disabilities identified and/or acquired following matriculation. Requests are otherwise evaluated and managed according to [HSC OP 77.14](#).
- b. Requests for accommodation by external organizations (such as, but not limited to, the National Board of Medical Examiners) for any exams or assessments administered under their auspices are independent and additional processes for which the school is not responsible. Such requests, and any related expenses, are the responsibility of the student, and the TTUHSC Student Disability Services will support the student in the process.

## Technical Standards for Admission, Retention, and Graduation

I certify that I have read and that I understand the **Technical Standards for Admission, Retention, and Graduation**.

I understand that I can meet the standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

I understand that I can request in writing any desired accommodation in order to meet these standards, including accommodation for a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, and must follow any specified procedures for evaluation in order to be considered for and receive accommodation ([Student Disability Services](#)).

I understand that while requests for accommodations may be submitted at any point during a semester, including requests related to disabilities identified and/or acquired following matriculation, they must be submitted in a timely manner to allow time to adequately coordinate accommodation services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be completed online