

Policy Name:	Technical Standards for Medical School Admission, Promotion, and Graduation
Original Approval Date:	c.1996
Approving Officer/Committee:	Medical Curriculum Committee
Revision Dates and Notes:	July 16, 2021 - Medical Curriculum Committee
Related LCME Element(s):	10.5

A. Policy – The following abilities and characteristics are defined as technical standards, which consist of certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and emotional characteristics that candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation must possess to complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of medical training, with or without reasonable accommodation. The term “candidate” refers to candidates for admission to medical school as well as current medical students who are candidates for retention, promotion, or graduation. These standards are not intended to deter any candidate for whom reasonable accommodation will allow the fulfillment of the complete curriculum. Candidates who have questions regarding their ability to meet the school’s technical standards should contact the Associate Dean for Admissions (candidates for admission) or Associate Dean for Student Affairs (current medical students). Students who believe they may need to request reasonable accommodation(s) in order to meet the standards are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs.

1. **OBSERVATION:** Candidates must be able to acquire information from demonstrations and participate in experiments of science, including but not limited to such things as dissection of cadavers; examination of specimens in anatomy, pathology, and neuroanatomy laboratories; and microscopic study of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. Candidates must be able to accurately acquire information from patients and assess findings. They must be able to perform a complete physical examination in order to integrate findings based on this information and to develop an appropriate diagnostic and treatment plan. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.
2. **COMMUNICATION:** Candidates must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with patients, their families, health care personnel, colleagues, faculty, staff, and all other individuals with whom they come in contact. Candidates must be able to obtain a medical history in a timely fashion, interpret non-verbal aspects of communication, and establish therapeutic relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to record information accurately and clearly; and communicate effectively and efficiently in English with other health care professionals in a variety of patient settings.
3. **MOTOR FUNCTION:** Candidates must, after a reasonable period of training, possess the capacity to perform physical examinations and diagnostic maneuvers. They must be able to respond to clinical situations in a timely manner and provide general and emergency

care. These activities require some physical mobility, coordination of both gross and fine motor neuromuscular function and balance and equilibrium.

4. **INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE, AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES:** Candidates must be able to assimilate the detailed and complex information presented in the medical student curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; simulations and use of computer technology. Candidates must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit information. They must recognize and draw conclusions about three-dimensional spatial relationships and logical sequential relationships among events. They must be able to formulate and test hypotheses that enable effective and timely problem-solving in diagnosis and treatment of patients in a variety of clinical settings and health care systems.
5. **BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES:** Candidates must demonstrate the maturity and emotional stability required for full use of their intellectual abilities. They must accept responsibility for learning, exercising good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to their curriculum and to the diagnosis and care of patients. Candidates must display characteristics of integrity, honesty, attendance and conscientiousness, empathy, a sense of altruism, and a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. They must understand and demonstrate understanding of the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within both the law and ethical standards of the medical profession. Candidates must be able to interact with patients and their families, health care personnel, colleagues, faculty, staff, and all other individuals with whom they come in contact in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. The candidate for the MD degree must accept responsibility for learning, and exercise good judgment. Candidates must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. Candidates must have the physical and emotional stamina and resilience to tolerate physically taxing workloads and function in a competent and professional manner under highly stressful situations, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and manage the uncertainty inherent in the care of patients and the health care system.
6. **ETHICAL AND LEGAL STANDARDS:** Students must be of the highest ethical and moral behavior. Candidates must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice medicine. Candidates for admission must acknowledge and provide written explanation to the School of Medicine of any felony offense(s), misdemeanor offense(s), and institutional action(s) taken against them prior to matriculation at the School of Medicine. This disclosure is required of all charges and convictions, including expunged and diverted offenses. This includes, but is not limited to, violent misdemeanors and substance use violations. Institutional actions include, but are not limited to, Title IX or Title VII violations. In addition, students who are enrolled in the School of Medicine must immediately notify the Associate Dean of Student Affairs of any arrest, charge, conviction or institutional investigation or action occurring thereafter. Felony conviction or failure to

disclose prior or new offenses can lead to disciplinary action by the school that may include dismissal.

Equal Access to the School of Medicine's Educational Program

The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport (LSUHSC-S) School of Medicine provides reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities who apply for admission to the MD degree program and who are enrolled as medical students. Otherwise qualified individuals will not be excluded from admission or participation in the School of Medicine's educational programs and activities based solely on their status as a person with a disability.

Should a candidate's or student's existing or acquired disability (despite reasonable accommodation whether the candidate chooses to use the accommodation or not), interfere with patient or peer safety, or otherwise impede the ability to complete LSUHSC-S School of Medicine's MD program and advance to graduation, residency, training, or licensure, the candidate or student may be denied admission or may be separated, discontinued, or dismissed from the program.

It is the responsibility of a candidate or student with a disability, or a candidate or student who develops a disability, who requires accommodations in order to meet these technical standards, to self-disclose to the Office of Student Affairs and request accommodations. Candidates must provide documentation of the disability and the specific functional limitations during the registration process with the Office of Student Affairs. Candidates who fail to register with the Office of Student Affairs or who fail to provide necessary documentation shall not be considered to be claiming or receiving accommodations under the federal or state disability laws. Students are held to their performance, with or without accommodation. No candidate will be assumed to have a disability based on poor performance alone. Accommodations are not applied retroactively, and a disability-related explanation will not negate poor performance.

- B. Purpose** – This policy specifies certain minimum physical and cognitive abilities and emotional characteristics needed to successfully complete the entire course of study of the MD program and participate fully in all aspects of medical training, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- C. Scope** – This policy applies to MD degree candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation.
- D. Procedure** –
 1. Admitted students attest to these Technical Standards prior to matriculation.
 2. LSUHSC-S School of Medicine is committed to the full and meaningful inclusion of students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Student

Affairs to request accommodations. The Office of Student Affairs will engage in a confidential, collaborative, and interactive process with the student, learning specialists, and/or other faculty members as needed to determine reasonable accommodations. Timely disclosure and requests by students are essential and encouraged as accommodations are not applied retroactively.

E. Related Policies/Forms

- Non-Involvement of Healthcare Provider in Student Assessment Policy
- Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest Policy
- Student Policy for Requesting Accommodations