

**Policy Name: 10.5.1 Technical Standards and Essential Functions****Scope:**

The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine (SOM) has a responsibility to current and future patients to train qualified medical students capable of providing a standard of care incumbent upon a well-trained, competent physician. For this reason, the SOM requires students to participate in and demonstrate certain standards of capability necessary to the education process and the practice of medicine.

Accepted students must meet certain standards of capability with or without reasonable accommodations for matriculation, continued enrollment, and graduation with the MD degree.

Students are selected based on their academic, personal, and extracurricular dimensions. The SOM is committed to maintaining [equal educational opportunity](#) and [Non-Discrimination](#) as outlined in The University of Texas at Tyler Handbook of Operating Procedures. UT Tyler SOM is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disability who are accepted into the program.

**Policy:**

Accepted applicants and students must meet certain standards of capability with or without reasonable accommodations and/or assistive technology. The Technical Standards are based upon, and adhere to, the standards set forth by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

**Technical Standards and Essential Functions:**

- 1. Observation:** A medical student must demonstrate adequate sensory function (e.g., vision, hearing, and touch) with or without accommodations, including assistive technology, to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. The student must also be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences.
- 2. Communication:** A medical student must be able to communicate effectively in both oral and written form. They must also be able to adjust their communication style based on observing a patient's understanding, mood, activity, posture, and non-verbal communication cues. The student must also be able to communicate with other health care professionals, community members, etc.
- 3. Psychomotor Skills:** A medical student must execute the maneuvers necessary to perform a physical exam, render routine and emergent care, and safely execute the motor movements required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, palpation, auscultation, percussion, application of pressure, movement around the immobile patient as needed to perform procedures such as maintaining a sterile field, and surgical and non-surgical procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of

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the senses of touch and vision or the functional equivalent.

4. **Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:** A medical 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 knowledge in an environment of high stress and distraction. Students must also be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships of structures with or without assistive technology.
5. **Behavioral and Social:** A medical student must exercise professional judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to their academic work, teamwork, and patient care. The student must possess the ability to develop mature, sensitive, and effective professional relationships with peers, faculty, staff, and members of the healthcare team. The student must be able to give and receive constructive feedback. The student must demonstrate the ability to process feedback and utilize it to conform to expected professional standards. Finally, the student must manage adversity and stress to prevent them from impacting their abilities in these competencies.
6. **Ethics:** A medical student must perform in an ethical manner in all dealings with peers, faculty, staff, and patients. Questions of breach of ethical conduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs for resolution under the Student Code of Conduct.

The [UT Tyler Office of Student Accessibility and Resources \(SAR\)](#) provides students equal access to all educational, social, and co-curricular programs through coordination of services and reasonable accommodations, consultation, and advocacy. They will work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive educational environment.

The above Technical Standards and Essential Functions were reviewed and endorsed by the UT Tyler SOM Admissions Committee and the Curriculum Oversight Committee. All candidates who are accepted to the MD program at UT Tyler SOM will be expected to sign the Technical Standard and Essential Functions Acknowledgement prior to beginning course work and to reaffirm upon reentry to UT Tyler SOM after any leave of absence from UT Tyler SOM.

Curriculum Oversight Committee Approved: 01/2022  
Last Revision Date: 3/4/2025  
Review Date: 3/4/2025