



Essential Abilities and Characteristics Required for Admission to and Completion of the MD Degree

A candidate for the MD degree at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNM SOM) must demonstrate the capacity to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to complete the MD Program educational requirements, including the technical standards in this document. Graduates will achieve the MD Program competencies in the basic and clinical sciences, and they will be able to graduate as skilled and effective practitioners of medicine with or without reasonable accommodations.

The abilities and characteristics which follow are defined as technical standards, which, in conjunction with academic standards, are requirements for admission, promotion, and graduation. Delineation of technical standards is required for the accreditation of U.S. medical schools by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). Although these standards serve to delineate the necessary physical and mental abilities of all candidates, they are not intended to discourage any candidate for whom reasonable accommodation will allow the fulfillment of the complete curriculum.

The University of New Mexico is committed to the full and equitable inclusion of qualified learners with disabilities. Students with disabilities are valued members of the medical community, contributing unique perspectives and ideas, and we encourage them to apply to our programs.

Process

Disability-related accommodations requests are reviewed individually, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether there are any reasonable accommodations or available options that would permit the candidate to satisfy the standards.

Students requiring accommodations should contact the liaison to the [Accessibility Resource Center \(ARC\)](#) to request accommodations. ARC will engage in a confidential, collaborative, and interactive process with the student and UNM SOM leadership to determine reasonable accommodations. Given the clinical nature of medical education, additional time may be needed to implement accommodations. Timely disclosure and requests by students are essential and encouraged as accommodations are not applied retroactively. The UNM SOM reserves the right to request new or additional information in support of requests.

In order to ensure ongoing appropriate support for our students, all students will be required to re-attest to meeting the technical standards upon entry to clerkships. Should a student have or develop a condition that may result in a need for accommodations, an evaluation with ARC may be necessary. We know that students with varied types of disabilities can become successful medical professionals.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The medical curriculum requires demonstrated proficiency in a variety of skills. To achieve these proficiencies, the UNM SOM requires that each student be able to meet the following technical standards.



1. **Observation:** Through independent observation, the student must be able to acquire information in the basic medical sciences, including that obtained from demonstrations and experiential activities. Students must be able to assess a patient and evaluate findings accurately.
2. **Communication:** Students 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. Students must be able to obtain a medical history in a timely fashion, interpret non-verbal aspects of communication, and establish therapeutic relationships with patients. Students 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. **Examination and Diagnostic Skills:** Students must, after a reasonable period of training, possess the capacity to perform physical examinations and diagnostic maneuvers. They must be able to respond to emergent or urgent situations in a timely manner and to provide general and emergency care.
4. **Intellect:** Students must be able to identify, define, and solve problems in a timely and effective manner. This critical skill demanded of physicians requires the ability to work effectively with measurements and calculations, to learn and reason in a variety of settings including formal lectures, small group discussions, individual teaching sessions, clinical teaching sessions and independent learning activities, to self-evaluate, and to integrate, analyze, and synthesize data concurrently in a multi-task setting. In addition, the students must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** Students must possess the emotional health and the self-discipline required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, maintenance of consistent communication about educational and clinical responsibilities, and the timely and safe completion of all tasks and responsibilities. They must be able to adapt to rapid change, to display flexibility, to accept formative feedback from others, and learn to function in the face of stressful situations and uncertainties. Students must consistently demonstrate honesty, integrity, altruism, empathy, and concern for patients, their families, colleagues, members of the healthcare team, and the community at large.

Responsible Office:	Office of Education
Approving Body:	UNM SOM Curriculum Committee
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