

## Technical Standards Policy

<b>Office of Accountability:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
<b>Office of Administrative Responsibility:</b>	MD Program
<b>Approver:</b>	MD Program Committee
<b>Scope:</b>	Compliance with this policy extends to all members of the MD Program.

### Overview

It is understood that the authority for policy is derived from the Alberta *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

### Purpose

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta is responsible to society to provide a program of study so that graduates have the knowledge, skills, professional behaviours and attitudes necessary to enter the supervised practice of medicine in Canada.

Graduates must be able to diagnose and manage health problems and provide comprehensive compassionate care to their patients. For this reason, students in the MD Program must possess the skills necessary to interview, examine, and counsel patients, and competently complete certain technical procedures in a reasonable time, all the while ensuring patient safety.

## POLICY

### 1. SKILLS & ABILITIES

An MD Program applicant and a candidate for the MD degree must demonstrate the following skills and abilities independently or with reasonable accomodation.

#### a. Observation

A student must be able to participate in learning situations that require skills to acquire information through observation and perception by the use of senses and mental abilities. In particular, a student must be able to accurately observe a patient and acquire information through visual, auditory and somatic sensation.

#### b. Communication

A student must be able to speak, to hear and to observe individuals or groups of individuals in order to effectively and efficiently elicit and clarify information. In the course of study for the MD degree the student must be able to progressively create rapport and develop therapeutic relationships with patients and their families, and establish effective communication with all members of the medical school community and healthcare teams. A student must also be able to progressively acquire the ability to coherently summarize and effectively communicate a patient's condition and management plan verbally, and in written and electronic form.

#### c. Motor and Tactile Function

A student must possess sufficient motor function to develop the skills required to safely perform a physical examination on a patient, including palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers. The examination must be done independently and competently in a timely fashion. A student must possess sufficient motor function and sensory function in order to be able

to use common diagnostic aids or instruments (e.g., ophthalmoscope, otoscope, sphygmomanometer, stethoscope), either directly or in an adaptive form. A student must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to attain the skills necessary to perform diagnostic procedures, and provide general and emergency medical care to patients in outpatient, inpatient and surgical venues.

d. Cognition, Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Qualitative Abilities

A student must demonstrate higher-level cognitive abilities and memory necessary to measure, calculate, and reason in order to conceptualize, analyze, integrate and synthesize information. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend dimensional and visual-spatial relationships. All of these problem-solving activities must be achieved progressively in a timely fashion. These skills must contribute to sound judgment based upon clinical and ethical reasoning.

e. Behavioural and Social Attributes

A student must consistently demonstrate the emotional health required for full utilization of her/his intellectual abilities. A student must take responsibility for herself/himself and their behaviours. The student must promptly complete all assignments and responsibilities attendant not only to the study of medicine, but also to the diagnosis and care of patients. It is essential that a student progressively develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and their families, all members of the medical school community and healthcare teams. The student must be able to accept the physical, emotional and mental demands of the program, and function effectively under stress. It is necessary to adapt to changing environments and function in the face of uncertainties that are inherent in the care of patients.

2. COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION OF CANADIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS (CACMS) STANDARDS

MS-9. A medical education program must develop and publish technical standards for the admission, retention, and graduation of applicants or students with disabilities, in accordance with legal requirements.

**DEFINITIONS**

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use. [\[▲Top\]](#)

**Technical standard**

An established norm or required ability or skill.

**RELATED LINKS**

No related links for this policy.

APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
MD Program Committee	Approved	24 January 2013