

Medical Laboratory Science Technical Standards Policy

Office of Accountability:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Office of the Vice Dean Education
Approver:	Faculty Council
Scope:	Compliance with this University policy extends to all members of the University community.

Overview

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

Purpose

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta is responsible to society to provide programs of study so that graduates at all levels of training have the knowledge, skills, professional behaviours, and attitudes necessary to enter supervised practice of their respective discipline in Canada.

Graduates must be able to diagnose and manage health problems, perform technical and laboratory skills and, as needed, provide comprehensive compassionate care to their patients. For this reason, **students** in all professional undergraduate programs 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

A Program applicant and a candidate for a professional program degree, diploma or certification must demonstrate the following skills and abilities independently or with reasonable accomodation.

1. 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 or situation and acquire information through visual, auditory and somatic sensation.

2. 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 their course of study the student must be able to progressively create rapport and develop relationships with patients and their families as required, and establish effective communication with all members of the Faculty community and healthcare teams. A student must also be able to progressively acquire the ability to coherently summarize and effectively communicate a patient's laboratory result verbally, and in written and electronic form.

3. Motor and Tactile Function

Specific to the study of Medical Laboratory Sciences, a student must possess sufficient motor and tactile function to attain the skills necessary for the collection, identification, transportation,

preparation, storage and analysis of specimens from patients. Students must possess sufficient hand eye coordination and fine motor skills to operate laboratory equipment. Depending on the area of specialization students may depend on colour vision, smell and touch to carry out analysis of specimens.

4. 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.

5. 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 laboratory medicine, but also to the diagnosis and care of patients. It is essential that a student progressively develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with all members of the Faculty community, and healthcare teams, including patients. The student must be able to accept the physical, emotional, and mental demands of their program of study 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 and working in the complex healthcare environment.

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.
Students	For the purpose of this policy, the Faculty considers students to refer to those students enrolled in the professional undergraduate programs.

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