



Technical Standards Evaluation Policy

Category:	1-Grading and Progression
Curriculum Phase:	All Phases
Author/Authoring Body:	Curricular and Student Affairs
Responsible Unit:	All Units
Policy Contact:	Student Affairs Dean Office
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Summary

All University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson (COM-T) undergraduate medical students must meet the [Technical Standards](#) throughout their enrollment in the MD Program. Satisfaction of the Technical Standards is an ongoing academic requirement.

Technical Standards Evaluations are used to determine if a student's academic or behavioral performance is or may be affected by impairment that includes but is not limited to medical, behavioral, or substance abuse issues.

The purpose of a Technical Standards Evaluation is to determine the student's ability to perform their academic and clinical duties responsibly and safely, meaning that the student is not a danger to patients, colleagues, self, or anyone in the learning environment or on University or clinical properties.

Related LCME Standard: 10.5 Technical Standards

A medical school develops and publishes technical standards for the admission, retention, and graduation of applicants or medical students in accordance with legal requirements.

Applicability & Scope

This policy applies to undergraduate medical students enrolled at the COM-T.

Definitions

Technical Standards Evaluation – An evaluation to determine the student's ability to meet the Technical Standards of the program so the student is able to perform their academic and clinical duties responsibly and safely.

Impairment – Conditions that may affect a student's academic or behavioral performance, including but not limited to medical, behavioral, or substance abuse issues.

Technical Standards – A document outlining the essential qualifications for admission and ongoing participation in the MD Program. All accepted medical student applicants are required to sign the Technical Standards as a contingency of their admission to and continued enrollment at the COM-T.

Technical Standards Evaluation Determination – Written confirmation by the non-COM-T faculty physician or psychologist who conducted the evaluation of the student's ability to meet the Technical Standards for the MD Program.

Policy Statement

- 1) Ability to meet the Technical Standards of the MD Program is an ongoing academic requirement.
- 2) COM-T may require a Technical Standards Evaluation when:
 - a) COM-T administration receives a concern that a student's behavior or performance may threaten the health or safety of the student, patients, instructors, or anyone in the learning environment.
 - b) A student's performance or behavior indicates that a student is or may be struggling to meet the [Technical Standards](#).
- 3) Pending a Technical Standards Evaluation, and in consultation with the block director or clerkship director overseeing the student in the curriculum, the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs will assign the student to virtual learning or require the student stop progress in the MD program.
- 4) Technical Standards Evaluations must be conducted by an evaluator approved by the COM-T. The prospective evaluator will be assessed for a known conflict before being approved. Approved evaluators may not be University of Arizona-employed COM-T faculty members.
- 5) The Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs and/or Associate Dean for Student Affairs will provide the pertinent information directly to the evaluator(s) selected to perform the Technical Standards Evaluation.
- 6) The cost(s) of the initial and re-admission Technical Standards Evaluations are the responsibility of the COM-T. The cost(s) of any additional medical advice, evaluations, and/or treatment are the sole responsibility of the student.
- 7) The COM-T may require that the Technical Standards Evaluation process be completed by a specific deadline.
- 8) The evaluator will generate a written Technical Standards Evaluation Determination addressed to the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs and/or Associate Dean for Student Affairs regarding the student's ability to perform the Technical Standards required for the MD Program.
 - a) The Technical Standards Evaluation Determination will not include specific health information about the student.
 - b) The Technical Standards Evaluation Determination will state only whether the student is able to meet the Technical Standards of the MD Program, with or without accommodations.
- 9) If a student requests accommodations to meet the Technical Standards, the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs and/or Associate Dean for Student Affairs will refer the student to the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

- a) It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the DRC and complete the DRC's assessment and accommodation process.
 - b) If the student fails to contact the DRC within 2 weeks of the Technical Standards Evaluation Determination, the student will be deemed unable to meet the Technical Standards of the MD Program.
- 10) A student who cannot meet the Technical Standards will be offered a medical or non-medical leave of absence when eligible and if such leave meets the conditions of the [Leave of Absence Policy](#).
- a) A student returning from a leave of absence as a result of a Technical Standards evaluation must undergo a subsequent Technical Standards evaluation by an evaluator approved and paid for by the COM-T prior to reintegration into the program.
 - b) If a student exhausts all leave of absence options, the student may withdraw from the MD Program.
- 11) Students who are absent from the MD Program for a period of 3 months without being on an approved leave of absence will be dismissed in accordance with the [Grading and Progression Policy](#) and [Student Progress Committee Procedures and Process for Dismissal](#).
- 12) A student who refuses a Technical Standards Evaluation will not be permitted to continue in the MD program and will be academically dismissed from the COM-T in accordance with the Grading and Progression Policy and Student Progress Committee Procedures and Process for Dismissal.
- 13) The Technical Standards Evaluation Determination and all written records regarding this process are maintained by the Office of Curricular Affairs.
- a) The Technical Standards Evaluation Determination is deemed an "education record" under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- 14) If new or continuing concerns are reported following the initial Technical Standards Evaluation Determination, the COM-T may require a second evaluation.
- 15) The Technical Standards Policy does not supersede or replace any applicable federal or state law or regulation. The COM-T remains committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.

Related Information

Policies

[COM-T Policy 1-101: Grading and Progression Policy](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-104: Technical Standards](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-106: Student Progress Committee Procedures and Process for Dismissal](#)

[COM-T Policy 2-102: Leave of Absence Policy](#)

Revision History

2025/11/21: Vice Dean for Medical Education approved revisions to clarify the evaluation process for students returning from a leave of absence and other minor clarifications.

2023/3/31: Vice Dean for Medical Education approved revisions to clarify the assessment of prospective evaluators and restriction of UArizona employment.

2022/2/14: Tucson Educational Policy Committee approved revisions to the policy.

2021/7/14: Tucson Educational Policy Committee approved revisions to the policy.