

**University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson
Technical Standards
Fulfillment of the requirements for the M.D. Degree**

I. Purpose

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson (COM-T) curriculum is designed to train highly skilled physicians dedicated to improving patient care and advancing the state of medical knowledge. A candidate for the M.D. Degree must demonstrate proficiency in five key areas for technical standards: (1) intellectual-conceptual abilities, (2) behavioral and social attributes, (3) communication, (4) sensory/observation, and (5) motor capabilities.

At each stage of the M.D. Degree Program – including ADMISSION, RETENTION, AND GRADUATION – students must possess the capability to complete, with or without reasonable accommodation, all aspects of the current curriculum. The COM-T curriculum is established by the College in accordance with LCME standards and may be modified from time to time by the Tucson Education Policy Committee.

The College of Medicine – Tucson is committed to the selection of a diverse cohort of students who will become future leaders in advancing health care to the distinct communities that comprise Arizona and the United States. We promote a campus that is not only accessible but welcoming to all disabled and non-disabled students, employees, and guests; where community members are invested in the inclusion, representation, and equitable participation of all.

By actively collaborating with students, we ensure that the COM-T curriculum and that the physical, technological, and policy environments are usable, welcoming, and accessible through individual consultation, strategic partnerships, and consistent outreach. We encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations through the University’s Disability Resource Center.

II. Policy Technical (non-academic) standards

A. Intellectual-Conceptual Abilities

A student must be able to problem solve rapidly. This critical skill demanded of physicians requires the ability to learn and reason, and to integrate, analyze, and synthesize data concurrently in a multi-task setting. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. A student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize in the context of the study of medicine. The student must be able to comprehend extensive written material. A student must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom and



clinical setting. A student must be able to effectively learn, participate, collaborate and contribute as a part of a team. A student will need to synthesize information effectively both in person and via remote technology. A student must be able to consider alternatives and make decisions for managing or intervening in the care of a patient.

B. Behavioral and Social Attributes

A student must possess the ability to exercise good judgment, and to complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and families. In addition, a student must maintain mature, sensitive, and effective and harmonious relationships with patients, students, faculty, staff, and other professionals under highly stressful situations. A student must have the ability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways. The student must be able to exhibit empathy, integrity, and concern for others and must interact with patients and their families, health care professionals, colleagues, faculty, and staff in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. Students are expected to understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within the law and ethical standards of the medical profession.

C. Communication

A student must communicate effectively, sensitively, and rapidly with other students, faculty, staff, patients, family, and other healthcare professionals. A student must demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback. A student must be able to: convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. The student must be able to process and communicate information on the patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the healthcare team. A student must be able to elicit information from patients, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.

D. Sensory/Observation

A student must be able to acquire the information presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and clinical sciences. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand (including in virtual/telemedicine settings) and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing clinical assessment and intervention or administering medications. The student must be capable of perceiving the signs of disease and infection as manifested through physical examination. Such information is derived from images of the body surfaces, palpable changes in various organs and tissues, and information communicated by patients and body functions. The student must be able to adhere to the standards of patient assessment and standards of care, including the use of technological equipment.

E. Motor Capabilities

A student should have sufficient motor function to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to patients in all health care settings. Students must be able to elicit

independently information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A student must be able safely to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients.

III. Procedure

A. Evaluation and Implementation of Reasonable Accommodations

The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson is committed to the full and meaningful inclusion of students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities should contact the Disability Resource Center to request 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.

Disability Resource Center 1224 E. Lowell St.
Tucson, AZ 85721
Phone: (520) 621-3268 (Voice/TTY)
Email: drc-info@email.arizona.edu

IV. Statement of Understanding and Agreement

I understand that fulfillment of the technical standards for graduation from the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Tucson does not mean that I will be able to fulfill the technical requirements of any specific residency program or licensure requirements.

This document applies to all years of my medical school training at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson.

I have read and understood the above policy. I agree to adhere to the stated procedures.

Signature

Printed Name

Date