

## The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson Technical Standards Evaluation Policy

<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>Technical Standards Evaluation Policy</b>		
Category:	Grading and Progression	Policy Status:	Proposed
COM-T Phase:	All Phases of MD Program	Effective Date:	6/18/2021
Responsible Unit:	All Units	Revision Dates:	02/10/2022
Relevant LCME Standard(s):	9.9 Student Advancement and Appeal Process	10.5 Technical Standards	

### Purpose and Summary

All University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson (COM-T) undergraduate medical students must meet the [Technical Standards](#) throughout their enrollment in the M.D. 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 maybe 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.

### Scope

COM-T Undergraduate Medical Students

### 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 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.

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### Policy

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 of 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. Approved evaluators cannot be COM-T faculty members.
5. The Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs and/or Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions will provide the pertinent information directly to the evaluator(s) selected to perform the Technical Standards Evaluation.
6. The cost(s) of the initial Technical Standards Evaluation are the responsibility of COM-T. The cost(s) of any additional medical advice, evaluations, and/or treatment are the sole responsibility of the student.
7. COM-T may require that the Technical Standards Evaluation process to 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 Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions 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 requires accommodations to meet the Technical Standards, the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs and/or Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions 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 two weeks of the Technical Standards Evaluation Determination, the student will be deemed unable to meet the Technical Standards of the MD Program.

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10. A student who cannot meet the Technical Standards will be offered a medical or personal leave of absence when eligible and if such leave meets the conditions of the [Leave of Absence Policy \(LINK\)](#).
  - a. A student returning from a leave of absence must recertify that they are able to meet the Technical Standards of the MD Program, with or without accommodations.
  - 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 three 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 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.
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. COM-T remains committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504.