



# The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS POLICY

*Updated January 2019*

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### **Scope**

The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School has a responsibility to current and future patients to train qualified Dell Medical School students that are capable of providing a standard of care incumbent upon a well-trained, competent physician. For this reason, the Dell Medical School requires students to participate in and demonstrate certain standards of capability necessary to the education process and/or the practice of medicine.

Accepted students must meet certain standards of capability with or without reasonable accommodations for matriculation, continued enrollment, and graduation with the MD degree.

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining [Equal Educational Opportunity](#) and [Non-Discrimination](#) as outlined in UT Austin policy.

### **Policy**

Accepted applicants and students must meet certain standards of capability with or without reasonable accommodations.

### **Technical Standards and Essential Functions**

**Observation:** A medical student must be able to demonstrate adequate sensory function (e.g., vision, hearing and touch) to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

**Communication:** A medical student must be able to communicate effectively in both oral and written form. The student must also be able to perceive communication from others whether it be written, verbal, or non-verbal including intonation, changes in mood, activity, and posture.

**Psychomotor Skills:** A medical student must be able to perform the maneuvers necessary to perform a physical exam, render routine and emergent care, and safely execute the motor movements required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, palpation, auscultation, percussion, application of pressure, movement around the immobile patient as needed to perform procedures such as maintaining a sterile field and surgical and non-surgical procedures.

**Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:** A medical student must be able to problem-solve effectively and rapidly; learn; reason; calculate; formulate and test hypotheses; memorize; process; analyze; rapidly integrate and synthesize information; and apply information in an environment of high stress and distraction.

**Behavioral and Social:** A medical student must exercise professional judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to his or her academic work, teamwork, and patient care. The student must possess the ability to develop mature, sensitive and effective professional relationships with peers, faculty, staff, and members of the healthcare team. The student must be able to give and receive constructive feedback. The student must demonstrate the ability to process feedback and utilize it to conform his or her behavior to expected professional standards. The student must manage adversity and stress in order to prevent its impacting his or her abilities in these competencies.

Any student that would like accommodations in order to meet the technical standards should contact the University of Texas Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.