



TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, RETENTION, PROMOTION AND CERTIFICATION FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR IN MEDICINE

Policy Number:	2008-01
Title:	Technical Standards for Admission, Retention, Promotion and Certification for the Degree of Doctor in Medicine
Effective:	June 27, 2008
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Policy Sponsor:	Student Affairs / Admissions Committee
Responsible Office:	Dean of Student Affairs

Policy Statement

The mission of the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine (SJBSM) is to educate a culturally and linguistically diverse generation of physicians to practice medicine with the highest level of knowledge, skills, values, and competence to address the health needs of underserved and medically vulnerable populations.

In order to accomplish the mission, applicants and enrolled students must have the physical, cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal abilities to meet the requirements of the school's curriculum and to interact with patients throughout their medical school education. The abilities and characteristics required of candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation, which ensure the safety and well-being of both students and patients, are referred to as **Technical Standards** and are described below.

The following technical standards are based on standards suggested by the Special Advisory Panel on Technical Standards for Medical School Admissions convened by the AAMC (Memorandum #79-4) in January 1979*. **The technical standards were formally adopted and approved by the Faculty Executive Committees, are reviewed annually by the Admissions Committee, and are updated periodically.** These guidelines specify the attributes considered essential for completing medical school training and for enabling each graduate to enter graduate medical education and clinical practice.

Scope

The school believes that all applicants and enrolled students must possess the intellectual, physical, and emotional capabilities necessary to undertake the required curriculum in a reasonably independent manner without having to rely on the assistance of others or intermediaries, and that all applicants and enrolled students must be able to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. All applicants

for admission, regardless of disability, are expected to be competitive with others in the applicant pool in academic, personal, and extracurricular attributes.

SJBSM will consider for admission and continued enrollment any applicant or student who possesses all of the abilities described in the five categories listed in this document, with or without reasonable accommodations, as determined by the Student Programs Coordination Office (Accessibility Services Office) and consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. Fulfillment of the technical standards does not guarantee that a graduate of the program will be able to fulfill the technical standards for employment, graduate medical education, or certifying boards. Candidates with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Students Programs Director, Yaidy L. Cruz Cordero, MEd, at (787) 337-4233 or 743-3038 Ext. 233, 212 or ylcruzcordero@sanjuanbautista.edu, early in the application process to discuss accommodation needs.

Technical Standards for Medical School Admission

A candidate for the MD program must have abilities and skills in the five functional areas described below. The candidate must have the physical and emotional stamina and capacity to function in a competent manner, consistent with these standards, in the classroom, and in the clinical and laboratory settings, including settings that may involve heavy workloads, long hours, and stressful situations.

1. Observation

Applicants and enrolled students must be able to observe and interpret demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. This includes, but is not limited to:

- anatomical, physiological, and pharmacological demonstrations
- microbiological cultures
- microscopic analysis of tissues and microorganisms in both normal and pathological states

Additionally, candidates must be able to accurately observe patients both at a distance and up close. Effective observation relies on the functional use of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation, and may be enhanced by the sense of smell.

Use of assistive or adaptive technologies may be permitted when they provide functional equivalence without compromising patient safety or the integrity of the educational experience.

2. Communication

Applicants and enrolled students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, faculty, and members of the healthcare team. This includes the ability to:

- speak, hear, and observe patients to gather information, recognize changes in mood, activity and posture, and interpret nonverbal cues
- communicate clearly and efficiently in both **oral and written** forms
- demonstrate proficiency in **English and Spanish**, as required by the SJBSM, for interactions with patients, peers, faculty, and healthcare professionals
- engage professionally in **digital communication platforms**, including electronic health records and telemedicine systems
- communicate effectively, which is essential for building trust, ensuring accurate information exchange, and delivering high-quality care

3. Motor

Applicants and enrolled students must possess sufficient motor function to perform physical examinations and clinical procedures. This includes the ability to:

- conduct diagnostic maneuvers such as palpation, auscultation, percussion, and pelvic examinations
- perform both basic and advanced clinical procedures required by the curriculum
- execute the motor tasks necessary for general and emergency patient care, such as:
 - cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
 - administering intravenous medications
 - applying pressure to control bleeding
 - opening obstructed airways
 - suturing wounds
 - performing basic obstetrical procedures

These tasks require coordination of gross and fine motor movements, balance, and functional use of touch, vision, and hearing.

4. Intellectual

Applicants and enrolled students must demonstrate strong intellectual abilities to succeed in medical education and practice. These include:

- measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis
- efficient learning, retrieval, organization, and integration of complex information
- effective problem-solving and critical thinking
- accurate spatial understanding of anatomical structures
- ability to apply quantitative skills in clinical decision-making

These cognitive skills are fundamental to diagnosing and treating patients, interpreting medical data, and adapting to evolving medical knowledge.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes

Applicants and enrolled students must demonstrate the emotional and behavioral maturity necessary to fully utilize their intellectual abilities, exercise sound judgment, and fulfill responsibilities related to patient care. This includes the ability to:

- develop respectful, compassionate, and effective relationships with patients, families, peers, faculty, and healthcare professionals
- work collaboratively and professionally as part of a healthcare team
- maintain composure and effectiveness under physically demanding workloads and stressful conditions
- adapt to changing environments and clinical uncertainties with flexibility and resilience
- exhibit personal qualities essential to medical practice, including compassion, integrity, concern for others, strong interpersonal skills, and motivation

While technological compensation or the use of non-service animals as defined by ADA (e.g., emotional support or therapy animals) may be permitted in some of these areas, a candidate or enrolled student must be able to perform in a reasonable independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary to carry

out essential skills or make clinical judgments on behalf of the candidate is not permitted, as it compromises the integrity of medical education and patient safety

In addition, candidates and enrolled students must maintain general physical health sufficiently to perform the duties of a medical student and physician-in-training without posing a risk to patients or colleagues. Candidates and enrolled students impaired by substance abuse (including alcohol or other drugs) are not suitable for admission, continuation, promotion, or graduation.

Continuity of Compliance with the Technical Standards

Applicants are required to attest, at the time they accept an offer of admission, that they meet the school's technical standards. After enrollment, students are required to reaffirm annually that they continue to meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation. These standards are not intended to deter any student who may be able to meet the curriculum requirements with reasonable accommodation.

Initiation of the Process to Request Reasonable Accommodation

Requests for reasonable accommodation will be reviewed and considered by the Office of the Student Programs Director. Students requesting accommodation must meet with the Student Programs Director and complete the Reasonable Accommodations Request Form. For additional information, contact Yaidy L. Cruz Cordero, MEd at (787) 337-4233, 743-3038 Ext. 233, 212 or ylcruzcordero@sanjuanbautista.edu.

Responsibility for implementation

The final responsibility for the enforcement of this policy rests in the Deanship of Student Affairs.

Related documents and legislation

LCME Standard 10.5

Appendices: None

History

- Adopted: June 8, 2008
- Revised: October 30, 2025