

**Technical Standards for Matriculation, Progression, and Graduation  
for all SMHS Students**

Section: 3

Policy number: 3.11

Responsible Office: Student Affairs and Admissions

Issued: 08.04.14

Latest Review (Bylaws): 03.21.23

Latest Approval (Faculty Council): 07.2023

**Policy Statement**

All graduates of this institution use professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes in order to function in a wide variety of settings and render a wide spectrum of patient care. To accomplish this, students, must meet (with or without accommodations) specified technical standards to matriculate, to progress through the curriculum, and to complete the graduation requirements. This policy describes the broadly defined technical standards expected of University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UND SMHS) students.

**Reason for POLICY**

The technical standards are designed to ensure the graduation of skilled, well-rounded, and appropriately educated scientists and healthcare providers. Each program and department within the UND SMHS may have additional technical standards specific to the requirements of the program.

**SCOPE of POLICY**

This policy applies to:

√Deans, Directors, and Department Heads

√Faculty

√Managers and supervisors

√Staff

√Students

Others:

**WEB SITE REFERENCES**

Policy Office: <http://www.med.und.edu/policies/index.cfm>

Responsible Office: <https://med.und.edu/admissions/student-affairs-admissions/index.html>

**DEFINITIONS**

Matriculate	The enrollment status of a student at the UND SMHS.
Technical Standards	<i>Technical standards</i> required for completion of biomedical, clinical and translational sciences, and health professions degrees consist of certain minimum essential abilities and characteristics to ensure that applicants for admission, progression, and graduation are able to complete the entire course of study and participate fully in all aspects of education, with or without reasonable accommodation.

## RELATED INFORMATION

Biomedical Sciences (MS, PhD)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/biomedical-sciences/graduate-studies.html">https://med.und.edu/biomedical-sciences/graduate-studies.html</a>
Clinical and Translational Science (MS, PhD)	<a href="https://und.edu/programs/clinical-translational-science-phd/index.html">https://und.edu/programs/clinical-translational-science-phd/index.html</a>
Indigenous Health (PhD)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/education-training/indigenous-health/">https://med.und.edu/education-training/indigenous-health/</a>
Medicine (MD)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/index.html">https://med.und.edu/index.html</a>
Medical Laboratory Science & Histotechnology (BS, MS, certificate programs)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/medical-laboratory-science/index.html">https://med.und.edu/medical-laboratory-science/index.html</a>
Occupational Therapy (OTD)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/occupational-therapy/">https://med.und.edu/occupational-therapy/</a>
Physical Therapy (DPT)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/physical-therapy/index.html">https://med.und.edu/physical-therapy/index.html</a>
Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/physician-assistant/index.html">https://med.und.edu/physician-assistant/index.html</a>
Public Health (MPH)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/public-health/masters/index.html">https://med.und.edu/public-health/masters/index.html</a>
Sports Medicine (BSAT, MSAT)	<a href="https://med.und.edu/sports-medicine/index.html">https://med.und.edu/sports-medicine/index.html</a>

## CONTACTS

General questions about this policy can be answered by your department's administrative office. Specific questions should be directed to the following:

Subject	Contact	Telephone/FAX	Email contact
Policy clarification	Student Affairs & Admissions	777.4221/777.4942	<a href="mailto:saa@und.edu">saa@und.edu</a>
Policy format	Dean's Office	777.2514/777.3527	<a href="mailto:judy.solberg@und.edu">judy.solberg@und.edu</a>

## PROCEDURES

When a student's ability to perform a technical standard is not met, the student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to perform the specified activity.

1. **Matriculation:** Each academic program within the SMHS maintains admissions standards and procedures that must be fulfilled prior to being accepted into a degree-granting program. Each program within the SMHS publishes these standards on their websites. These standards are set to describe minimal criteria needed to successfully complete the degree. Students should refer to these websites and work with individual academic coordinators to best prepare themselves for matriculation. Students should demonstrate the potential to meet the expected technical abilities listed in the table below prior to matriculation.
2. **Progression:** Each academic program within the SMHS maintains minimal Technical Standards (See table below), as judged by faculty members, examinations, and other measurements of performance required for a student to continue to progress through the curriculum. Every effort is made to meet the educational needs of the UND SMHS student. It is the student's responsibility to identify and disclose any disabilities when requesting accommodations to progress through a program. When a student's ability to perform a technical standard is not met, the student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to perform

the specified activity to progress towards earning a degree. Each clinical, fieldwork, or practicum site may have additional technical standards that might affect a student's ability to complete clinical placements.

3. Graduation: Prior to the award of the degree, SMHS students must demonstrate the requisite capacities/abilities in the following broad areas: observation, communication, motor function, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities, behavioral and social abilities, and ethics and professionalism. The broad requirements for each program are described below- Further, a student must be able to engage in personal reflection and self-awareness as a mechanism of effective personal growth, development, and lifelong learning.

#### Technical Standards

Standard	Health Professions Students	Biomedical Sciences and Clinical and Translational Science Students
Observation	Students should be able to obtain information from demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.	Students should be able to obtain information from demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.
Communication	Students should be able to communicate with others, including patients, in order to elicit information, detect changes in mood, activity, and to establish a therapeutic relationship. Students should be able to communicate via English effectively and sensitively with others, including patients and all members of the healthcare team, both verbally and in writing.	Students should be able to communicate with others in order to elicit information, detect changes in mood, activity, and to establish a collegial relationship. Students should be able to communicate in English effectively and sensitively with others, including all members of the scientific community, both verbally and in writing.
Motor Function	Students should, after a reasonable period of time, possess the capacity to perform a physical examination and perform diagnostic maneuvers. Students should be able to execute some motor movements required to provide general care to patients and administer or direct the provision of emergency treatment of patients. Such actions require some coordination of both gross and fine muscular	Students should, after a reasonable period of time, possess the capacity to perform physical tasks required for experimental procedures in the laboratory setting. Such tasks may require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements balance and equilibrium. Students should be able to provide or direct the provision of emergency response to unforeseen laboratory

	movements balance and equilibrium.	incidents.
Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities	Students should be able to assimilate detailed and complex information presented in both didactic and clinical coursework, adapt to different learning environments and modalities, and engage in problem solving. Students are expected to possess the ability to accurately measure, calculate, quantify, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit information.	Students should be able to assimilate detailed and complex information presented in both didactic and clinical coursework, adapt to different learning environments and modalities, and engage in problem solving. Students are expected to possess the ability to accurately measure, calculate, quantify, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit information.
Behavioral and Social Abilities	Students should possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, fellow students, faculty, and staff. Students should be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They should be adaptable and resilient to changing environments. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, respectability, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are expected during the education process.	Students should possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with fellow students, faculty, and staff. Students should be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They should be adaptable and resilient to changing environments. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, respectability, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that are expected during the education process.
Ethics and Professionalism	Students should demonstrate ethical and moral behaviors commensurate with the role of a healthcare professional and researcher in all interactions with faculty, staff, students, the public, and patients. The student is expected to understand the	Students should demonstrate ethical and moral behaviors commensurate with the role of a scientist in all interactions with faculty, staff, students, the public, and subjects. The student is expected to understand the legal and ethical aspects of

	legal and ethical aspects of their profession and function within the law and ethical standards required of the profession.	their profession and function within the law and ethical standards required of the profession.
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**RESPONSIBILITIES**

Student	It is the responsibility of the student to request necessary accommodations through university procedures.
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**DISABILITY SERVICES**

Disability Services for Students at UND SMHS assists qualifying students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as learning, seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, or breathing. Presence of disability alone does not necessarily qualify an individual for accommodations. The individual must experience functional limitation(s) caused by the disability that significantly limit or prevent access to the University’s programs, services, or facilities.

Determination for accommodations is made on a case-by-case basis and is accomplished through discussion with the student and review of the disability documentation. Note that if accommodations are identified, they cannot be provided retroactively. For more information on the process to determine eligibility or to discuss accommodations, applicants or enrolled students in the biomedical sciences, clinical and translational sciences, or health professions programs should contact Disability Services for Students. Disability Services for Students is the campus resource for confidential discussion and support regarding reasonable accommodations-

Student Disability Resources  
 McCannel Hall Room 190  
 2891 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N. Stop 9040  
 Grand Forks, ND 58202 – 9040 P 701.777.2664  
 F 701.777.4583  
[UND.sdr@UND.edu](mailto:UND.sdr@UND.edu)