

**Standards of Capacity  
For all SMHS Medical Students**

Section: 4  
Policy number: 4.14  
Responsible Office: Student Affairs and Admissions  
Issued: 06.04.07  
Latest Review: 2020-2021

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## POLICY STATEMENT

The UND SMHS essential standards (academic and capacity) are designed to ensure the graduation of capable, well-rounded future clinicians.

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## REASON for POLICY

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) has a responsibility to society to graduate the best possible future physicians. All graduates of the UND SMHS must have knowledge, skills, and attitudes to function in a wide variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. The UND SMHS essential standards (academic and capacity) are designed to ensure the graduation of capable, well-rounded future clinicians.

Academic standards refer to acceptable demonstrations of mastery in various disciplines as judged by faculty members, examinations and other measurements of performance. Acceptable student levels of mastery are required in six broad areas of competency. These six general areas of competency are similar to those used by graduate medical education programs to evaluate residents thus preparing students for the next phase of their education.

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## SCOPE of POLICY

This policy applies to:

√Deans, Directors, and Department Heads

√Faculty

√Managers and supervisors

√Staff

√Students

Others: This policy applies to all faculty members who have responsibilities for student assessment. Faculty members have an active duty to bring forward any potential conflicts of interest.

## WEB SITE REFERENCES

This policy: <http://www.med.und.edu/policies/files/docs/conflict-of-interest-assessment.pdf>

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

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## DEFINITIONS

Academic Standards	Are the acceptable demonstrations of mastery in various disciplines as judged by faculty members, examinations and other measurements of performance
Standards of Capacity	The essential aptitudes and abilities that allow medical students to perform in the vast array of requisite ways required in medical education.
Reasonable Accommodations	A means of assisting students with disabilities to meet essential standards by providing them with an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of each course or clerkship

## RELATED INFORMATION

Technical Standards for all UNDSMHS students	<a href="http://www.med.und.edu/policies/_files/docs/technical-standards.pdf">http://www.med.und.edu/policies/_files/docs/technical-standards.pdf</a>
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## 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	Dean's Office	777.2514/777.3527	judy.solberg@med.und.edu
Policy format	Dean's Office	777.2514/777.3527	judy.solberg@med.und.edu

## PRINCIPLES

- I. The UND SMHS essential standards (academic and capacity) are designed to ensure the graduation of capable, well-rounded future clinicians. To this end the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) has a responsibility to society to graduate the best possible future physicians. All graduates of the UND SMHS must have knowledge, skills, and attitudes to function in a wide variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.
- II. Academic standards refer to acceptable demonstrations of mastery in various disciplines as judged by faculty members, examinations and other measurements of performance. Acceptable student levels of mastery are required in six broad areas of competency. These six general areas of competency are similar to those used by graduate medical education programs to evaluate residents, preparing students for the next phase of their education.

- a. The broad areas of competency are:
  - i. Clinical Skills
  - ii. Lifelong Learning
  - iii. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
  - iv. Medical/Scientific Knowledge
  - v. Ethics and Professionalism
  - vi. Health Care Systems-based Practice and Improvement
- III. Standards of capacity are the essential aptitudes and abilities that allow medical students to perform in the vast array of requisite ways summarized by the six areas of competency above. They are described in detail below.
- IV. Without the ability to demonstrate the standard capacities, students cannot fulfill the requirements of the courses at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Meeting the UND SMHS Standards of Capacity is, therefore, required for 1) matriculation (insomuch as the abilities can reasonably be determined before matriculation), 2) subsequent promotion from year to year, and 3) graduation.
- V. A number of individuals with disabilities, as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, are qualified to study and practice medicine with the use of reasonable accommodations. To be qualified for the study of medicine at UNDSMHS, those individuals must be able to meet both the UNDSMHS's academic standards and standards of capacity, with or without reasonable accommodation. Accommodation is viewed as a means of assisting students with disabilities to meet essential standards by providing them with an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of each course or clerkship. (Reasonable accommodation is not intended to guarantee that students will be successful in meeting the requirements of the course or clerkship.)
- VI. Qualified students with documented disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodations at the UND SMHS, which may include involvement of an intermediary or an auxiliary aid. No disability, however, can be reasonably accommodated at UND SMHS with an aid or intermediary that provides cognitive support or substitutes for essential clinical skills, or supplements clinical and ethical judgment. Thus, accommodations cannot eliminate essential program elements or fundamentally alter the medical school curriculum.

## Standards of Capacity

The listed capacities are essential in meeting the core competencies as defined by the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Students at the UND SMHS must have capacities/abilities in five broad areas:

- Perception/observation
- Communication
- Motor/Tactile
- Cognition
- Professionalism

Details describing each of these areas are as follows. These are presented as examples and are not intended to be all inclusive.

1. Perception/observation-Students must be able to perceive, by the use of senses and mental abilities, the presentation of information through:
  - a. Small group discussions and presentations
  - b. Large-group lectures
  - c. One-on-one interactions
  - d. Demonstrations
  - e. Laboratory experiences
  - f. Patient encounters (at a distance and close at hand)
  - g. Diagnostic findings
  - h. Procedures
  - i. Written material
  - j. Audiovisual material
2. Communication-Students must be able to communicate skillfully both orally and in writing (in English) with faculty members, other members of the healthcare team, patients, families, and other students, in order to:
  - a. Elicit information
  - b. Convey information
  - c. Clarify information
  - d. Create rapport
  - e. Develop therapeutic relationships
  - f. Work collaboratively
3. Motor/Tactile Function-Students must have sufficient motor function and tactile ability to:
  - a. Attend and participate in classes, groups, and activities which are part of the curriculum
  - b. Produce written and oral communication
  - c. Examine patients (including observation, auscultation, palpation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers)
  - d. Do basic laboratory procedures and tests
  - e. Perform diagnostic procedures
  - f. Provide patient care appropriate to the circumstances
  - g. Function in a wide variety of patient care venues
  - h. Perform in a reasonably independent and competent way in potentially high speed/high demand environments
  - i. Must be able to wear a surgical mask.
  - j. Must be able to wear a N95 respirator or powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR).

4. Cognition-Students must be able to demonstrate higher-level cognitive abilities, which include:

- a. Rational thought
- b. Measurement
- c. Calculation
- d. Visual-spatial comprehension
- e. Conceptualization
- f. Analysis
- g. Synthesis
- h. Organization
- i. Representation (oral, written, diagrammatic, three dimensional)
- j. Memory
- k. Application
- l. Clinical reasoning
- m. Ethical reasoning
- n. Sound judgment

5. Professionalism-Students must consistently demonstrate the core attributes of professionalism. UNDSMHS has defined the following behaviors as indicators of professionalism:

- a. Commitment to Excellence
- b. Honesty and Integrity
- c. Respect for Others
- d. Empathy and Compassion
- e. Professional Responsibility
- f. Social Responsibility
- g. Altruism

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Student	Seek Disability Student Services evaluation as appropriate and provide documentation to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions. Renew the documentation annually.
Education Resources	Provide reasonable accommodations for students with proper documentation from DSS.

### REVISION RECORD

06.04.07—FAC

06.04.07—Dean

09.09.20—UMEC

*NOTE: Not a part of the official document*

If any medical school applicant or medical student has a question about whether he or she can meet these standards due to functional limitations from a disability, he or she should contact Disability Support Services for a confidential discussion regarding reasonable accommodation:

Disability Support Service  
Room 190 McCannel Hall,  
Stop 9040 Grand Forks, ND  
58202-9040 Phone: (701) 777-  
3425 Voice/TDD  
Fax: (701) 777-4170  
[dss@und.nodak.edu](mailto:dss@und.nodak.edu)