

Student - Policy on Technical Standards

Policy Number: 301.1008.102

Policy Revision Date: 5-24-2022

Policy Category: Academic

Policy Owner: Vice Dean

Policy Audience: Students

1. Definitions:

3. Introduction / Purpose:

All applicants accepted by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (GCSOM) to the MD program must attest to and submit the “Certification Regarding Ability to Meet Technical Standards Candidates for Matriculation.” Additionally, returning students must attest to and submit on a yearly basis the “Certification Regarding Ability to Meet Technical Standards Candidates for Academic Promotion or Graduation.”

4. Governance and Enforcement:

Technical Standards Committee and Accessibility Committee

5. Policy:

Technical Standards Policy for Admission to the MD program:

All applicants accepted by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine to the MD program must attest to and submit the “Certification Regarding Ability to Meet Technical Standards Candidates for Matriculation” via the admissions software system when accepting the offer of admission and after reading the technical standards which can be found at <http://tcmedc.wpengine.com/admissions/md-admissions/tcmcs-technical-standards/>.

If an accepted candidate attests to and submits, "Yes, without reasonable accommodations" no further action is needed. This information will be kept in a confidential file. If an accepted candidate attests to and submits "No, with or without reasonable accommodations" the offer of admission is rescinded. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

If an accepted candidate, attests to and submits “Yes, with reasonable accommodations, subject to review and approval based on documentation submitted to the Accessibility

Committee it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide adequate documentation of the nature and extent of the condition and/or functional limitations to be accommodated and submit the information to the Associate Director of the Center for Learning Excellence (CLE) or their designee in the Office of Student Affairs.

Once the information is obtained from the accepted candidate and reviewed by the Associate Director of the CLE or their designee with the candidate through an interactive process, the candidate's request for accommodations will be presented to the Accessibility Committee. The Accessibility Committee will assess the request and recommendations of the CLE and make a decision on the request guided by the Policy and Procedures for Disability Services. When necessary, the Accessibility Committee will seek counsel from various members of the College, the health care community, and/or or experts as needed to make a determination on whether or not the student can meet the learning objectives of the MD program without a fundamental alteration of the MD Program.

The determination will be made consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

If an accepted candidate can no longer meet the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodations, it is the responsibility of the accepted candidate to notify the Admissions Office in writing that they can no longer meet the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodations. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

The decision regarding the matriculation of an accepted candidate will include a recommendation by the Admissions Committee to the Vice Dean. GCSOM will inform the student of its decision in writing. If the student is disqualified based in whole or in part on not meeting the technical standards, GCSOM will outline the reasons for its decision.

An accepted candidate can appeal the decision of the Admissions Committee via the "Grievance Procedure" process found in the Policy and Procedures for Disability Services.

Technical Standards Policy for Academic Promotion or Graduation through the MD program.

All GCSOM students seeking academic promotion or graduation through the MD program must attest to and submit, six weeks prior to the beginning of a new academic year, the "Certification Regarding Ability to Meet Technical Standards Candidates for Academic Promotion or Graduation".

If a student attests to and submits, "Yes, without reasonable accommodations" no further action is needed. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

If a student attests to and submits, "No, with or without reasonable accommodations" the student is referred to the Committee on Academic and Professional Standards for review and dismissal from GCSOM. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

If a student, attests to and submits "Yes, with reasonable accommodations, subject to review and approval based on documentation submitted to the Accessibility Committee" or "Yes, with additional reasonable accommodations, as reviewed and approved by the Accessibility

Committee” it is the responsibility of the student to provide adequate documentation of the nature and extent of the condition and/or functional limitations to be accommodated and submit the information to the Associate Director of the CLE or their designee in the Office of Student Affairs.

Once the information is obtained from the student and reviewed by the Associate Director of the CLE or their designee with the student through an interactive process, the student’s request for accommodations will be presented to the Accessibility Committee. The Accessibility Committee will assess the request and recommendations of the CLE and make a decision on the request guided by the Policy and Procedures for Disability Services. When necessary, the Accessibility Committee will seek counsel from various members of the College, the health care community, and/or or experts as needed to make a determination on whether or not the student can meet the learning objectives of the MD program without a fundamental alteration of the MD Program.

The determination will be made consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

If, at any point during the academic year, a matriculating student can no longer meet the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodations, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the Associate Director of the CLE in writing who will forward this information to the Committee on Academic and Professional Standards for review.. The decision regarding the academic promotion or graduation of a student will be made by the Committee on Academic and Professional Standards Governing the MD Program. This information will be kept in a confidential file.

GCSOM will inform the student of its decision in writing. If the student is disqualified based in whole or in part on not meeting the technical standards, GCSOM will outline the reasons for its decision. A student can appeal the decision of the Technical Standards Committee via the “Grievance Procedure” process found in the Policy and Procedures for Disability Services.

6. Key Stakeholders:

Students