University of Virginia School of Medicine
Process for Determining Compliance with the Technical Standards for Matriculation, Promotion, and Graduation

All matriculants and current students ("Candidates") must possess the physical, cognitive, emotional and interpersonal capabilities necessary to complete the medical education program and to provide highly effective patient care within the medical education program. These capabilities are called Technical Standards, the essential functions that all medical students must demonstrate to meet the requirements of a general medical education. Candidates—whether for admission, academic promotion, or graduation—must meet these Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodation. (*See the "Technical Standards" for details of these capabilities*.) These technical standards are predicated on the school's learning objectives that are considered essential for completion of the M.D. degree. They have been approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Dean of the School of Medicine.

Annual Declaration: Each year, all Candidates must sign and return to the Office of Student Affairs a copy of the form "Declaration of Meeting Technical Standards for the University of Virginia School of Medicine." Failure to sign and return the form could delay or prevent promotion or graduation. Falsification of a form is a violation of the Honor Code and could lead to dismissal from the School. Each year, the Office of Student Affairs will notify students of the deadline for filing the Declaration but it is the student's responsibility to complete, sign, and return the form by the deadline. *(See the form at the foot of this document.)*

Review of Technical Standards: The standards are reviewed, revised as needed, and reconfirmed by the Technical Standards Committee annually. This review takes into account the School of Medicine's ongoing curriculum and clinical standards evaluation, and changes in applicable law and/or University policy.

Technical Standards Committee: The Technical Standards Committee is charged with determining whether Candidates meet the School's Technical Standards and, if not, whether reasonable accommodation would allow them to meet the standards. If the Committee determines that a case does not fall within the scope of a technical standards issue, the Committee will triage the case to the appropriate group, e.g., the Academic Standards and Achievement Committee, the Threat Assessment Team, etc.

The Technical Standards Committee consists of the Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, Associate Dean for Diversity, and the Assistant Dean for Medical Education. Review and advice will be sought as appropriate, and may include General Counsel for the Medical School, the UVA Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and/or the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center.

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Virginia does not discriminate against qualified applicants or enrolled students with disabilities. These Technical Standards are not intended to deter any candidate or enrolled student for whom reasonable accommodation will allow the fulfillment of the complete curriculum.

Admitted and enrolled students with disabilities have access to resources at the University. See the ADA Coordinator's web page at http://www.virginia.edu/accessibility/.

Request for review and/or accommodations

(1) Candidates for matriculation: Candidates with disabilities who are offered admission should begin discussions with the Technical Standards Committee as soon as the offer is received. It is the Candidate's responsibility to provide sufficiently current information that documents the general nature and extent of the disability, the functional limitations that would need to be accommodated, and the accommodations that are requested. Guidelines as to when information and documentation are deemed sufficiently current vary by type of disability and may be found on the University's Learning Needs and Evaluation Center website at http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/lnec.html. The Technical Standards Committee is responsible for determining whether Candidates meet the School's Technical Standards and, if not, whether reasonable accommodation would allow them to meet the standards. In making that determination, the Committee may seek additional information about a candidate's disabilities and about possible accommodations from knowledgeable persons within or outside the School. The Committee may require a candidate to undergo examination by appropriate specialists. Such examination will be at the candidate's expense.

The Committee will review each candidate case by case, with careful consideration of all the candidate's skills and attributes. Candidates currently abusing alcohol or other substances are not suitable candidates for enrollment.

Reasonable/unreasonable accommodation: An accommodation is unreasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of the Candidate or others, if making it requires a substantial modification in an essential element of the curriculum, if it lowers academic standards, or if it poses an undue administrative or financial burden on the School. No disability can be accommodated with an auxiliary aid or intermediary that provides a selective function, cognitive support, or medical knowledge. Aids and intermediaries also may not act as a substitute in performing essential skills, or supplement clinical and ethical judgment. That is to say, accommodations cannot eliminate essential program elements.

(2) Candidates for academic promotion or graduation: Enrolled Candidates who develop a disability or condition shall provide current information documenting the general nature and extent of the disability, the functional limitations that would need to be accommodated, and the accommodations that are requested. Guidelines as to when information and documentation are deemed sufficiently current vary by type of disability and may be found on the University's Learning Needs and Evaluation Center website at http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/lnec.html.

Review by the Technical Standards Committee: The Committee will review the enrolled Candidate's disability and possible reasonable accommodations by applying the same standards and following the same procedures used for candidates for matriculation, as described above. Enrolled Candidates who develop a disability or condition that places patients or others at risk and/or that jeopardizes the ability to complete medical student education, and that cannot be eliminated with a reasonable accommodation, will be dismissed from the School. Candidates currently impaired by alcohol or other substance abuse are not suitable for promotion or graduation.

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Declaration of Meeting Technical Standards for Enrollment, Promotion, and Graduation

Note: It is the Candidate's responsibility to complete and sign two copies of the document, delivering one to the Office of Student Affairs and retaining one for your files.

Are you capable of meeting the School of Medicine's Technical Standards as described in the attached document?

___ Yes, without accommodations

___ Yes, with existing accommodations as approved by the Technical Standards Committee

___ No; review and accommodations are needed

Reminder: It is your responsibility to (a) notify the Office of Student Affairs in writing if you can no longer meet the Technical Standards without accommodation and (b) provide adequate current documentation of the nature and extent of the condition and/or functional limitations to be accommodated.

I certify that I have answered all questions accurately and truthfully. Print full name: _____

Sign full name: _____ Date _____