

Medical Assistant Program Technical Standards

The following abilities and characteristics are defined as technical standards, which are established by the faculty and deemed necessary for a student to matriculate, remain in good standing, and achieve the competencies required for graduation from the Medical Assistant Program. The NM Academy therefore requires applicants to confirm their ability to comply with these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, as a condition of admission to the Medical Assistant Program.

***Performance Level: O = occasionally 50-74%; F = frequently 75-89%; C = constantly 90-100%**

PSYCHOMOTOR STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
LIFT:	patients, equipment - up to 100 lbs.	F
CARRY:	equipment, objects - up to 25 lbs.	F
KNEEL:	to perform CPR; assist patients who fall; to retrieve items from a storage cabinet	O
STOOP/BEND/ TWIST:	to position the examination table, perform transfers	F
BALANCE:	safely maintain while assisting patients in ambulation and transfer	C
CROUCH	to locate and plug in equipment	O
REACH:	to adjust equipment; to guard patient; to reach supplies	C
HANDLE	equipment such as syringes, BP cuffs	C
DEXTERITY:	manipulate and fine-tune knobs, dials, blood pressure cuffs, tools, equipment, instruments, scales, phlebotomy, injection instruments, prepare and use equipment while maintaining sterile technique and keyboard 35 wpm	C
PUSH/PULL:	wheelchairs, stretchers, patients	C
WALK:	a distance of at least 2 miles during a normal work day	C
STAND:	for periods of at least 2 hours	C
WEAR:	personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed and gloves for extended periods of time	F

SENSORY STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
PALPATE:	pulses, muscle contractions, bony landmarks, swelling, skin texture	C
DIFFERENTIATE:	between temperature and pressure variations	F
READ:	accurately; numbers, letters, cursive writing in fine and other print in varying light levels in English	F
DETECT:	changes in skin color, patient's facial expressions, swelling, atrophy, forms of non-verbal communication (gestures)	F
OBSERVE:	patient and environment in order to assess the patient's condition or needs from a distance of 20 feet	C
SEE	BP manometer, small print on vials, syringes, dials and gauges	C
COMMUNICATION STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
SPEAK:	in English language in clear, concise manner, to communicate with patients, families, health care providers, community	C
RESPOND:	to patient with communication disorders (aphasia, hearing loss), or those who English is a second language	O
COMPREHEND:	oral and written language, including health care terminology in order to communicate with patients, families, health care providers, and community	C
WRITE:	in English, clearly, legibly, for charting and computer input	C
HEAR:	blood pressure sounds through a stethoscope, breath sounds, patient distress sounds, machine timer bells and alarms; verbal directions from supervisor from a distance of 20 feet; verbal requests from patients, physicians, etc.	C
COGNITIVE STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
Function safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations.		F
Remain alert to surroundings, potential emergencies, respond to patient situations, i.e. falls, pain, change in physical status		F
Integrate information, and make decisions based on pertinent data, in a collaborative manner.		C
Interact effectively and appropriately with patients, families, supervisors, and co-workers of the same or different cultures with respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, discretion.		C
Communicates an understanding of basic principles of supervision, ethics, and confidentiality.		C
Displays basic interpersonal skills necessary to interact in situations requiring close, personal contact.		C

Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with client care	C
Display attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the profession.	C
Maintain composure while managing/prioritizing multiple tasks simultaneously.	C
Prioritize multiple tasks.	C