

School of Radiation Therapy 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 radiation therapy 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 radiation therapy program.

Perception

- Students must be able to observe patients and equipment directly (at a distance or close at hand) and indirectly via CCTV/television monitor.
- Students must be able to discern a variety of signals on imaging equipment, phones, and patient care devices.
- Students must be able to assess patient condition and perform appropriate interventions safely and accurately.
- Students must be able to follow written and oral instructions from physicians and staff.
- Students must be able to assess radiographic images and determine action necessary to improve image quality and/or patient position.
- Students must be able to differentiate anatomic structures and beam characteristics on radiographic images.
- Students must be able to rapidly respond to emergency signals and alarms.

Motor skills

- Students must be able to manipulate imaging, simulation, and treatment equipment.
- Students must be able to manually position patients and align anatomical structures using reference marks and images. This requires the ability to exert 25-50 lbs. of force frequently.
- Students must be able to assist patients to and from exam/treatment tables, wheelchairs, and stretchers. This requires the ability to exert 25-50 lbs. of force frequently.
- Students must be able to stand and walk unassisted for up to eight hours a day.
- Students must be able to move independently about the department, hospital, clinical facility, and patient rooms in an expedient manner.
- Students must be able to operate computers, switches, buttons, and foot pedals.
- Students must be able to perform and monitor patient vital signs.
- Students must be able to adhere to universal and transmission-based precautions.

Communication

- Students must be able to respond to patients' needs, communicated in an average tone, from as far away as 15 feet.
- Students must be able to record information accurately and clearly and communicate effectively with other healthcare professionals in a variety of patient settings.
- Students must be able to communicate with patients, doctors, and other personnel clearly and effectively in the English language using appropriate medical terminology.
- Students must be able to understand and respond to verbal and non-verbal methods of communication when interacting with patients and colleagues.
- Students must be able to convey or exchange accurate information in a clear and efficient manner in both oral and written modes.

Cognitive

- Students must be able to calculate, measure, reason, analyze, and synthesize.
- Students must be able to participate and learn through a variety of modalities including but not limited to classroom instruction, small groups, team, and collaborative activities.
- Students must be able to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships.
- Students must be able to read, comprehend, and interpret medical records, clinical documentation, and other material in both written and electronic formats.
- Students must be able to integrate training from several sources to problem solve in a timely, precise, and highly coordinated manner.
- Students must be able to transfer knowledge across different areas, rotations, and patients.

Behavior and Social Attributes

- Students must be able to exercise good judgment including the timely completion of responsibilities, prioritization of tasks, and recognition of the need to seek assistance as indicated.
- Students must be able to react calmly and effectively in stressful environments.
- Students must be able to demonstrate sensitivity towards individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Students must be able to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and colleagues.
- Students must be able to demonstrate reasonable flexibility in adapting to changing work situations and unexpected situations inherent to clinical practice.
- Students must be able to process and accept constructive feedback, both oral and written, and use it to modify and improve clinical and academic performance.
- Students must be able to complete all responsibilities attendant to the treatment and care of patients. This includes effective expression of empathy for the situations and circumstances of others.
- Students must be able to demonstrate professional and ethical behavior.
- Students must be able to exhibit a level of attentiveness that ensures patient safety.