

Radiation Therapy Program Technical Standards Policy

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Additions/deletions for Approval:

Office of Accountability:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Radiation Therapy Program, Department of Oncology
Reviewer:	Faculty Learning Committee (FLC)
Approver:	Radiation Therapy Operations Committee
Scope:	Compliance with this policy extends to all members of the Radiation Therapy Program.

1) Overview:

It is understood that the authority for this policy is derived from the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act.

2) Purpose:

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta is responsible to society to provide a program of study so that graduates have the knowledge, skills, professional behaviours and attitudes necessary to enter the regulated health profession of Medical Radiation Therapy in Canada.

Graduates must be able to competently plan, deliver and verify radiation therapy treatment, as well as provide comprehensive compassionate care to their patients. For this reason, students in the Radiation Therapy Program must possess the skills necessary to interview, examine, and counsel patients, as well as competently and independently complete complex technical procedures in a reasonable amount of time, all the while ensuring patient safety.

3) Policy:

- a) **Skills & Abilities:** A Radiation Therapy Program applicant and a candidate for the Bachelor of Science, Radiation Therapy degree must demonstrate the following skills and abilities independently or with reasonable accommodation.
 - i. **Observation:** A student must be able to participate in learning situations that require skills to acquire information through observation and perception by the use of all senses and mental abilities. In particular, a student must be able to

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- accurately observe a patient, situation or technique, and acquire detailed information through visual, auditory and somatic sensation.
- ii. **Communication:** A student must be able to speak, to hear, to visualize and to observe individuals or groups of individuals in order to effectively and efficiently elicit and clarify information in the English language. In the course of study for the Radiation Therapy degree the student must be able to progressively create rapport and develop therapeutic relationships with patients and their families, and establish effective communication with all members of the medical education community and healthcare teams. A student must also be able to progressively acquire the ability to coherently summarize and effectively communicate a patient's condition and management plan verbally, and in written and electronic form.
 - iii. **Motor and Tactile Function:** A student must possess sufficient motor function to develop the skills required to safely perform technical procedures on a patient, including transfer, positioning and other treatment maneuvers. The procedure must be done independently and competently in a timely fashion. A student must possess sufficient motor function and sensory function in order to be able to use common equipment or instruments. A student must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to attain the skills necessary to perform therapeutic procedures, and provide care to patients from both the inpatient and outpatient setting.
 - iv. **Cognition, Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Qualitative Abilities:** A student must demonstrate higher-level cognitive abilities and memory necessary to measure, calculate, and reason in order to conceptualize, analyze, integrate and synthesize information. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend dimensional and visual-spatial relationships. All of these problem-solving activities must be achieved progressively in a timely fashion. These skills must contribute to sound judgment based upon clinical and ethical reasoning.
 - v. **Behavioural and Social Attributes:** A student must consistently demonstrate the emotional health required for full utilization of her/his intellectual abilities. A student must take responsibility for herself/himself and their behaviours, including self-care. The student must promptly complete all assignments and responsibilities attendant not only to the study of medicine, but also to the diagnosis and care of patients. It is essential that a student progressively develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and their families, all

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members of the medical education community and healthcare teams. The student must be able to accept the physical, emotional and mental demands of the program, and function effectively under stress. It is necessary to adapt to changing environments and function in the face of uncertainties that are inherent in the care of patients.

DEFINITIONS

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use. [\[▲Top\]](#)

Technical standard	An established norm or required ability or skill.
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RELATED LINKS

No related links for this policy

APPROVAL STATUS

APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
Radiation Therapy Operations Committee		