

Technical Standards for Nuclear Medicine Technology

Our program technical standards have been developed to help students understand nonacademic standards, skills, and performance requirements expected of a student to complete this curriculum. The associate degree in applied science in Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT) signifies that the graduate is prepared for an entry-level position into the practice of Nuclear Medicine. Therefore, the graduate must have both the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of situations and to render a wide spectrum of health-related services. Students should possess the following minimal physical requirements to adequately perform NMT responsibilities.

If an accommodation is necessary to participate in the program, it is imperative to identify a reasonable accommodation to those students who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonableness is determined by the Accessibility Resources and the program on a case-by-case basis utilizing the program technical standards. The accommodation needs to be in place prior to the start of the program, or it may delay your ability to start the program. It is the student's responsibility to contact Accessibility Resources and request accommodation.

Skills	Description	Specific Examples
Communication	Oral and written communication skills to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency with patients, their families, and other members of the healthcare team, including non- verbal communication, such as interpretation of facial expressions and body language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with clear dictation and in a concise manner to patients, visitors, and other healthcare professionals in various departments. • Read, type, and write appropriate instructions and documentations in patients' charts, notes, and medical records accurately, as per clinical policy. • Elicit information and cooperation (i.e.: obtaining patient history, giving patient prep instructions) • Perceive nonverbal communication (i.e.: pain, lack of understanding) • Recognize and report critical patient information to other health care workers

Skills	Description	Specific Examples
<p>Critical Thinking/ Problem-Solving</p>	<p>Critical thinking and problem-solving skills sufficient for sound clinical judgment during the performance of nuclear medicine scans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and accurately perform in proper sequence, and within a specified time, the steps required for nuclear medicine procedures. • Ability to remember and recall large amounts of information. • Ability to accurately read and transcribe illegible handwriting, seeking clarification when needed. • Ability to quickly assess patients' conditions and other emergent situations, determine appropriate courses of action, request assistance or delegate responsibilities to coworkers, and/or respond as needed. • Ability to solve error messages on equipment, operate equipment safely and transport patients safely. • Comprehend three-dimensional relationships (i.e.: anatomical relations) • Understand the spatial relationship of structures. • Critical Thinking/ability sufficient for clinical judgement (i.e.: modification of procedures and/or technical factors to accommodate patient age/or condition)

Skills	Description	Specific Examples
Environmental Tolerance	Nuclear Medicine students may be exposed to communicable diseases and/or blood and body fluids, toxic substances, medical preparations, latex, and ionizing radiation. Students shall always use appropriate precautions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver unbiased patient care. • Establish rapport with patients, healthcare works, instructors, and peers. • Ability to cope in stressful situations calmly and respectfully, emergency situations, or in situations involving other personnel. • Accept constructive and professional criticism. • Follow all program, college, and clinical site policies. • Expected to always maintain confidentiality. Expected to adhere to the SNMMI NMT Code of Ethics and Rules of Ethics, as listed in current NMT Handbook
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of patient health care needs and during performance of nuclear medicine procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to understand, and respond appropriately to comments, questions, and instructions given in person, over the phone, or from a distance including those given when personnel are wearing surgical masks. • Ability to hear various equipment and background sounds during • equipment operations. • Hear normal speaking level sounds, auscultatory sounds, and auditory alarms (i.e.: equipment, monitors, fire alarms, call bells, emergency signals, and cries for help)

Skills	Description	Specific Examples
Motor Skills	<p>Motor abilities required for nuclear medicine imaging includes gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, strength, and functional use of all combined senses for the safe handling of patients, self, and equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly reach up to six (6) feet off the floor, bend, stoop or kneel. • Push, pull, or lift minimum of twenty (20) pounds of weight. • Transfer immobile patients safely from stretcher to scanner table with some assistance from other personnel, must be comfortable touching patients. • Push standard and oversized patient wheelchairs, as well as mobile (portable) equipment to and from various areas • Standing for extended periods of time with occasional sitting • Safely perform diagnostic, therapeutic procedures and/or laboratory procedures • Provide other patient services and patient associated services. • Safely lift, manipulate, and use equipment or supplies. • Manual dexterity for patient positioning and with accessory devices and equipment controls • Move within confined spaces such as imaging, treatment rooms and other health care areas. • Administer CPR and maintain current certification
Professional Attitudes and Interpersonal Skills	<p>Present with professional appearance and demeanor: follow instructions and safety protocols and maintain a positive attitude. Demonstrate honesty and integrity beyond reproach.</p> <p>Possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, healthcare workers, instructors, and peers • (interpersonal skills)

Skills	Description	Specific Examples
Professional Attitudes and Interpersonal Skills	<p>Present with professional appearance and demeanor: follow instructions and safety protocols and maintain a positive attitude. Demonstrate honesty and integrity beyond reproach.</p> <p>Possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, healthcare workers, instructors, and peers (interpersonal skills) • Maintain all professional boundaries. • Display flexibility and adaptations while working with diverse populations. • Effectively work within a team and workgroups • Provide prompt and safe completion of all patient care responsibilities. • Exhibit ethical behaviors and exercise good judgement. • Display the following: Compassion Empathy Integrity Concern for others Interest and motivation
Smell	<p>Olfactory ability sufficient to detect significant environmental and patient odors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect odors from patient (foul smelling drainage) • Detect burning and/or smoke
Technological	<p>Adaptability and skills to utilize current electronic, digital, and medical technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize keyboard or touchscreens for selection and inputting clinical data into consoles, computers, and charts. • Adapting to different technologies within the nuclear medicine field, to acquire and process patient • Studies

Skills	Description	Specific Examples
Vision/Observation	Visual ability sufficient for accurate observation and performance of nuclear medicine procedures in bright, normal, or dim lighting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually monitor patients. • View anatomy and appropriate imaging techniques on nuclear images displayed on computer screen, all within a low light environment. • Observe changes in equipment operation (i.e.: warnings) • Safely work in dimly lit rooms • Observe and evaluate appropriate acquisition and scanning protocols from print or electronically. • Observe the results of certain • Stimuli (i.e.: medication reaction, patient's skin color changes such as cyanosis or pallor)
Other	Adapting to Nuclear Medicine Program course and clinical schedules, including any unforeseen changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work approximately 8 hours per day and/or varied hours several times a week. • Tolerate physically taxing and/or fast-paced workloads. • Adapt to changing environments (i.e.: flexible schedules)
Comprehension and Retention/Multitasking	Complex subject matter in multiple didactic courses simultaneously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to comprehend, retain, and apply complex nuclear medicine content over multiple semesters and simultaneously in multiple courses within the same semester.

This document is intended to serve as a guide regarding the physical, emotional, intellectual, and psychosocial expectations placed on a student. This document cannot include every conceivable action, task, ability, or behavior that may be expected of a student. Meeting these technical standards does not guarantee employment in this field upon graduation.

Ability to meet the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for any licensure, certification exam or successful completion of the degree program.