

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Technical Performance Standards and Essential Functions

Purpose

These standards describe the essential abilities needed to participate safely and effectively in the academic, laboratory, and clinical components of the Nuclear Medicine Technology (NUMT) Program. They are not intended to discourage qualified applicants. Students must be able to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants and students who may require accommodation should contact Delgado Community College's designated accessibility office. Accommodation requests are considered individually through the College's established process. The NUMT Program does not ask applicants to disclose a diagnosis. Accommodations may not eliminate essential academic, safety, or clinical requirements or place patients, students, or others at risk.

Professional Responsibilities

Area	Essential responsibility
Patient care	Review relevant history; verify identity and orders; assess preparation; explain procedures; position, transfer, and monitor patients; protect privacy; recognize changes in condition; and initiate an appropriate emergency response.
Radiopharmaceuticals and medications	Calculate, prepare, assay, label, document, and administer radiopharmaceuticals and authorized adjunctive or imaging medications under applicable supervision and policy.
Imaging and data	Perform planar, SPECT, SPECT/CT, PET/CT, and other program-required procedures; select and evaluate acquisition parameters; process data; assess image quality; and communicate technical concerns.
Instrumentation and quality control	Operate imaging and nonimaging radiation-detection systems, dose calibrators, computers, and laboratory equipment; perform and document required quality-control procedures.
Radiation and workplace safety	Apply ALARA principles; use shielding, distance, time, contamination control, dosimetry, surveys, wipe tests, signage, and radioactive-material security in accordance with federal, state, and institutional requirements.
Clinical and laboratory practice	Use standard precautions and aseptic technique; obtain and handle specimens when required; maintain accurate records, inventories, and communications; and work effectively with patients and the healthcare team.

The precise scope of practice varies by jurisdiction, clinical site, credential, and documented competency. Students must follow all program, clinical-affiliate, regulatory, and institutional policies.

Technical Performance Standards

Standard	Student must be able to
Observation and sensory	Obtain information from patients, records, equipment, monitors, images, and the clinical environment. Read displays and measurement scales; distinguish visual information used for safe performance, including color-coded information; hear or otherwise detect alarms and patient calls; and use touch when clinically necessary.
Communication	Communicate clearly, respectfully, and promptly in spoken and written English with patients, families, faculty, students, and healthcare personnel. Give and receive instructions, document accurately, obtain relevant history, explain procedures, and communicate urgent findings or changes in patient condition.
Motor and mobility	Navigate classrooms, laboratories, imaging rooms, and patient-care areas; maintain balance and body control; stand or walk for extended clinical activities; reach and bend; use both hands for equipment and supplies; perform fine-motor tasks used in injections, dose preparation, positioning, and computer operation; and assist with patient movement using proper equipment and available help.
Strength and endurance	Safely move or position equipment and supplies and participate in patient transfers. Students may need to lift or carry items weighing up to approximately 25 pounds and exert greater force when moving wheeled equipment or assisting a patient, using appropriate assistance and safe-body-mechanics procedures.

Standard	Student must be able to
Cognitive and quantitative	Read and apply written policies and verbal directions; organize multiple tasks; maintain attention and accuracy; recognize patterns and errors; solve problems; use clinical judgment; perform arithmetic, algebraic, statistical, radioactive-decay, activity, time, distance, and unit-conversion calculations; and adapt to changing clinical conditions.
Behavioral and professional	Demonstrate integrity, accountability, emotional stability, compassion, respect, dependability, and appropriate boundaries. Accept supervision and feedback; work collaboratively; protect confidentiality; manage stress; and respond constructively to unexpected events, emergencies, and schedule changes.
Environmental and safety	Function safely around ionizing radiation, radioactive materials, medications, blood and body fluids, cleaning agents, electrical equipment, moving machinery, low-level equipment noise, reduced lighting, and confined or crowded work areas. Wear required personal protective equipment and comply with infection-control and radiation-safety practices.
Technology	Use electronic health records, imaging and processing workstations, communication systems, calculators, and other digital tools required by the program and clinical affiliates while maintaining information security and patient confidentiality.

Professional references used in this revision: JRCNMT Accreditation Standards for Nuclear Medicine Technologist Education (2024/2025); SNMMI-TS Nuclear Medicine Technologist Scope of Practice and Performance Standards (approved October 2024).