

# ACCOMMODATIONS:

*They do make a difference in supporting students*



*Accommodation has become a hot topic in health science education. The requests for accommodation at UNMC have **quadrupled in the last 4 years.***

## » 2 Key Questions to Ask Yourself

- 1 What are the technical standards for my program?  
(Technical standards are expected to be unique to, or different, for each program.)
- 2 When were your program's technical standards last reviewed?

### Common elements of technical standards include:

- » Observation (gathering and interpreting information)
- » Communication skills
- » Motor and physical skills
- » Intellectual-conceptual, integrative, quantitative, and cognitive abilities
- » Behavioral, social, and personal attributes
- » Flexibility and adaptability
- » Professionalism

These requirements may be achieved with or without reasonable accommodations. Candidates with disabilities are encouraged to contact disability services early in the application process to begin the confidential conversation about what accommodations they may need to meet these standards.

### Additional Resource

Meeks, L.M. & Jain, N.R. (2018). *Accessibility, inclusion, and action in medical education: Lived experiences of learners and physicians with disabilities.* Washington DC: Association of American Medical Colleges

Hall, W.C., Elliott, M., & Cullen, J.P. (2019). Designated interpreters: A model to promote the diversity and including of deaf professionals in Academic Medicine. *Academic Medicine* 94(5), 697-700.

## ACCOMMODATION SUCCESS STORY

More than two decades ago, Tim Cordes, MD, PhD, began his journey as a blind medical student, the third in the US. Despite a stellar academic and research resume (which set him up to be a highly sought-after candidate on paper), eight medical schools rejected his application. But one Midwestern school gave him a chance to reveal and hone his talents.

Now, Dr. Cordes is a highly respected and successful physician and faculty member at the University of Wisconsin Hospital.



» Attitudes and perspectives have shifted considerably in the last twenty years and technology has improved tremendously. In this time, health science education has also acquired a great deal of wisdom regarding universal design in education and design thinking.



**KELLY SWOBODA, LMHP**  
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For help regarding accommodations, contact the student affairs leader in your college. Or, go online to **iLearn.unmc.edu** for more information.