

Program Competencies

Medical Knowledge

Medical knowledge includes the acquisition and synthesis of core principles pertaining to biomedical and clinical sciences, including anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, microbiology, biochemistry, genetics, pharmacology, perioperative principles, preventative medicine, and patient education. Medical knowledge also requires an understanding of the evolving nature of science and medicine and the utility of evidence-based medicine to inform clinical practice.

Clinical and Technical Skills

Apply the principles of basic and clinical sciences, including the acquisition of foundational core medical knowledge, to identify, diagnose, and provide patient-centered care to healthy and ill patients. Demonstrate clinical (decision-making) and technical (procedural) skills to develop differential diagnosis, order and interpret laboratory and imaging, diagnose, treat, and manage illness and disease; perform competent execution of clinical evidence-based decision-making / basic clinical procedural skills, and to assess patient presentation, differential diagnosis, and patient management plan. Prioritization of actions and clinical care decisions based on information available and the patient's beliefs about their care.

Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Abilities

Patient care includes patient- and setting-specific assessment, evaluation, and management. Physician assistants must demonstrate care that is evidence-based, effective, safe, high-quality, and equitable, delivered in a manner that is patient-centered, compassionate, and respectful. PAs are specialists in team-based medicine which includes collaboration with physicians and other healthcare professionals.

Interpersonal Skills

Interpersonal and communication skills encompass the verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic exchange of information. Physician assistants must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective exchange of information with patients, patients' families, physicians, professional associates, and other individuals within the health care system.

Professional Behaviors

Physician assistants must demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements. Professionalism is demonstrated in the attributes of respecting professional boundaries, personal integrity, emotional intelligence, professional relationships, and patient interactions.