

Division of Physician Assistant Studies

Technical Standards Policy

I. Background

The West Virginia University Division of Physician Assistant Studies is committed to fostering a learning environment that supports students from all backgrounds. The following technical standards inform incoming and enrolled students of the essential skills, knowledge, and abilities they must demonstrate to safely and successfully participate in this program.

To successfully matriculate through the program, students must meet these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations. Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Guidance from the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), an individualized interactive process is used with each student with disabilities to determine whether reasonable accommodations would allow that student to meet the technical standards of a program without fundamentally altering its essential requirements. If you believe you need accommodations to meet the technical standards listed below, contact the [West Virginia University Office of Student Accommodations](#)

II. Technical Standards

The Division of Physician Assistant Studies has established the following technical standards for all applicants and enrolled students. These standards are grounded in the essential demands of the curriculum and reflect the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors required to achieve competency in the six core domains of physician assistant education:

- Medical Knowledge
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- Clinical and Technical Skills
- Professional Behaviors
- Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
- Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Skills

Graduates must be able to perform safely and effectively in a wide variety of clinical settings and deliver patient-centered care consistent with entry-level physician assistant practice.

Reasonable accommodations, assistive technologies, and other approved supports may enable qualified students to meet these standards. The standards below describe the functional outcomes students must be able to achieve and are not intended to prescribe specific sensory, physical, or biological abilities.

Observation and Information Gathering

Students must be able to acquire, interpret, and integrate information necessary for learning, clinical decision-making, and patient care. This includes the ability to:

- Obtain relevant information from patients, educational materials, medical records, demonstrations, simulations, and laboratory activities.
- Accurately gather and interpret clinical findings, including physical examination findings, diagnostic studies, medical images, physiologic data, and other forms of patient information.
- Identify and respond appropriately to information presented through visual, auditory, tactile, technological, or other accessible means.
- Participate in instructional activities involving anatomic models, laboratory experiences, clinical simulations, and patient encounters.

Communication

Students must be able to communicate information effectively, accurately, efficiently, and professionally with patients, families, caregivers, faculty, staff, classmates, preceptors, and other members of the healthcare team.

This includes the ability to:

- Obtain and convey information during patient encounters.
- Perceive and respond to information shared by students, instructors, patients, and members of the healthcare team.
- Document clinical findings and patient care activities accurately and in a timely manner.
- Participate in classroom, laboratory, clinical, and interprofessional learning environments.
- Communicate effectively in urgent and non-urgent situations.

Clinical and Technical Performance

Students must be able to perform or direct the performance of essential clinical and technical functions required in physician assistant education and practice.

This includes the ability to:

- Conduct patient assessments and examinations.
- Utilize diagnostic and therapeutic procedures required by the curriculum.
- Perform clinical skills safely and effectively in classroom, laboratory, simulation, and patient-care settings.
- Respond appropriately in routine, urgent, and emergent clinical situations.
- Use clinical equipment, technology, and medical information systems necessary for patient care and program participation.

Students must be able to perform these functions with reasonable efficiency, accuracy, and safety.

Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

Students must be able to demonstrate the cognitive and analytical skills necessary to learn, evaluate, synthesize, and apply information in academic and clinical settings.

This includes the ability to:

- Measure, calculate, analyze, synthesize, and interpret information.
- Integrate information from multiple sources to support clinical decision-making.
- Identify relationships among clinical findings and formulate appropriate hypotheses and differential diagnoses.
- Evaluate evidence and apply clinical reasoning to patient care situations.
- Solve problems using sound judgment and evidence-based practices.
- Learn, participate, collaborate, and contribute effectively in individual and team-based learning environments, both in person and through remote technologies.

Behavioral and Professional Attributes

Students must demonstrate the behavioral, emotional, and professional attributes necessary to fulfill program requirements and provide safe, effective, and compassionate patient care.

This includes the ability to:

- Exercise sound judgment and professional responsibility.
- Develop and maintain respectful and effective relationships with patients, peers, faculty, staff, and healthcare professionals.
- Adapt to changing environments, clinical circumstances, and evolving patient needs.
- Function effectively in situations involving uncertainty, stress, competing demands, and heavy workloads.

- Provide patient-centered care to individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

III. Technical Standards Attestation

As a condition of admission and continued enrollment in the Physician Assistant Studies Program at West Virginia University, I acknowledge that I have received, and understand the Technical Standards for Admission, Advancement, and Graduation.

I understand that these Technical Standards identify the essential competencies required to successfully complete the curriculum and to perform the essential functions of a physician assistant student.

I understand that I must be able to meet these Technical Standards throughout my enrollment in the program.

Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

This form is to be uploaded to Certiphi by the deadline specified in the offer of admission.

For questions please contact:

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