



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistant Technical Standards

All students who are admitted to the UM-Flint MSPA Program will be required to sign a statement verifying they have read, fully understand, and meet each of the technical standards.

Physician Assistant students are expected to meet all of the standards upon admission to and throughout the entire educational program, as outlined in this document. The Technical Standards are in place to insure that students with impaired intellectual, physical and / or emotional functioning do not place the educational process and patient safety in jeopardy. Students who develop conditions while in the MSPA Program which may impair their ability to meet the Technical Standards will be reevaluated. If the student's abilities appear to be compromised, the Program Director may require a physician and/or other objective assessment of the student's cognitive, psychological, or physical abilities. After review of the available information, the Program Director may terminate a student's enrollment if the student does not meet the Technical Standards.

All students must be able to independently meet the following technical standards:

Observation

The student must be able to acquire a defined level of required information as presented through demonstrations and experiences in the basic and medical sciences. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance, and close at hand, to acquire information from written documents and electronic health records, and to visualize information as presented in images from paper, film, slides or video. Such observation and information acquisition necessitates the functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensation while being enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities. In any case, where a student's ability to observe or acquire information through these sensory modalities is compromised, the student must demonstrate alternative means and / or abilities to acquire and demonstrate the essential information conveyed in this fashion. If the alternatives are acceptable, it is expected that obtaining and using alternative means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student.

Communication

A student must be able to speak, to hear and to observe patients by sight in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes speech, reading, and writing. The student must be able to communicate effectively, respectfully, professionally in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Sensory and Motor

It is required that students possess the motor skills and strength necessary to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, muscle strength testing, and diagnostic procedures. The student must be able to

execute motor movement reasonably required to provide general and emergency medical care such as airway management, placement of intravenous catheters, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to control bleeding, suturing of wounds and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. The student must possess the ability to support and position another person, stand for long periods of time, and perform CPR/resuscitation.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Critical Thinking

The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. A student must also be able to interpret x-ray and other graphic images, and digital or analog representatives of physiological phenomenon (such as EKG's) with or without the use of assistive devices. The student must be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion as determined by the educational and/or clinical setting throughout the entire UM-Flint MSPA program.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. The student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. He/she must be able to adapt to changing environments to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes. The PA student must possess maturity and emotional stability, accept responsibility for learning, and comply with the legal and ethical aspects of medical practice. They must also function within the law and ethical standards of the medical profession, possess ability to use intellectual capacity, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, even in emergency situations and extended hours. They must accept constructive feedback and respond to supervision appropriately, and act within the appropriate scope of practice.

Other Abilities

UM-Flint MSPA students must be able ability to read, write, understand, and communicate proficiently and effectively in the English language. They must possess the ability to meet and deal with people of differing backgrounds and behavioral patterns. Students must be able to transport themselves and/or arrange for transportation to and from all required Program classes and clinical sites.

Accommodation

Students with and without disabilities are expected to meet the same requirements. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to assist in learning, performing and satisfying the fundamental standards, and to facilitate student progress where it does not compromise UM-Flint MSPA Program's standards or interfere with the rights of other students and patients. Technological accommodations can be made for some handicaps in certain areas of the curriculum, but a candidate must meet the essential

technical standards so that he or she will be able to perform in a reasonably autonomous manner. The need for personal aids, assistance, caregivers, readers, and interpreters, therefore, may not be acceptable in certain phases of the curriculum, particularly during the second year of the program. Open communication facilitates learning, as well as identifying the need of assistance in learning course material. It is expected a student notify the instructor immediately if he/she feels they require extra assistance for learning.

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) in 264 UCEN, (810) 762-3456. They can provide direct assistance to students with disabilities. The student must provide documentation from the Accessibility Services Office for each course, each semester before accommodations can be provided. Students are responsible for the arrangements for examinations with the instructor and Accessibility Services Office.