

*Department of Physician Assistant Studies*

CORE COMPETENCIES

**DOMAIN 1 - MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE (MK)**

DESCRIPTION Medical knowledge includes the fundamental understanding of the pathophysiology principles, patient presentations, differential diagnosis, patient management options, surgical principles, health promotion, disease prevention strategies and social determinants of health required to successfully provide patient centered care. The graduate PA will be able to:

1-1 Recognize normal and abnormal health states in the context of the patient's life

1-2 Demonstrate understanding of etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, prognosis, and epidemiology for common medical conditions

1-3 Identify signs and symptoms of medical conditions

1-4 Differentiate between acute, chronic, and emerging disease states

1-5 Formulate a differential diagnosis based on history, physical examination, lab and imaging, and other information given

1-6 Select appropriate laboratory or other diagnostic studies

1-7 Manage general medical and surgical conditions to include understanding the indications, contraindications, side effects, interactions, and adverse reactions of pharmacologic agents and other relevant treatment modalities

1-8 Recognize when referral is needed and correctly identify the appropriate provider type/patient setting needed.

1-9 Identify the appropriate methods to detect yet undiagnosed conditions in an asymptomatic individual

1-10 Recognize the cultural norms, needs, influences, and socioeconomic, environmental, and other population-level determinants affecting the health of the individual and community being served

1-11 Provide healthcare services and appropriate patient education focused on health promotions and disease prevention.

**DOMAIN 2 - CLINICAL & TECHNICAL SKILLS (CTS)**

DESCRIPTION Clinical and technical skills include history-taking, physical examination, basic procedural techniques, interpretation of historical data, exam findings, & diagnostic testing, and documentation. The graduate PA will be able to:

2-1 Obtain an appropriate patient history to gather essential and accurate information about the patient's needs

2-2 Perform an appropriate physical exam to gather accurate findings relevant to the patient's needs

2-3 Competently perform medical and surgical procedures considered essential in the primary care setting

2-4 Differentiate between normal and abnormal laboratory and diagnostic data, relevant history, and physical exam findings to formulate a differential diagnosis

2-5 Accurately interpret laboratory and other diagnostic modalities and apply them to the patient's scenario when considering management options

2-6 Accurately and adequately document and record information regarding the medical care process for medical, legal, quality, and financial purposes.

**DOMAIN 3 - INTERPERSONAL & COMMUNICATION SKILLS (ICS)**

DESCRIPTION Interpersonal and communication skills encompass the appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written exchanges of information that will allow the graduate PA to effectively communicate information with patients, patient families, physicians, professional associates, and the healthcare system. The graduate PA will be able to:

3-1 Use effective listening, nonverbal, explanatory, questioning, and writing skills to elicit and provide information

3-2 Develop relationships and effectively communicate with physicians, other health professionals, and healthcare teams

3-3 Appropriately adapt communication style and messages to the context of the individual patient interaction

3-4 Demonstrate insight and understanding about emotions and human responses to emotions that allow one to develop and manage interpersonal interactions

3-5 Provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs

3-6 Recognize the need for and ensure that patients have access to unbiased, professional interpreters and appropriate resources when barriers to communication arise

3-7 Effectively communicate information to patients and family members using language and terms that are clear and understandable and meaningful

3-8 Participate in difficult conversations with patients and colleagues

**DOMAIN 4 - PROFESSIONALISM & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (PP)**

DESCRIPTION Professionalism is the expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered. The graduate PA will demonstrate professionalism by demonstrating awareness of their limitations, exhibiting a high level of responsibility, ethical standards and sensitivity while providing patient centered care to a diverse patient population. Professional practice involves adherence to legal and regulatory requirements for practicing medicine and maintaining licensure. Graduates will be able to practice medicine in a beneficent manner, recognizing and adhering to standards of care. The graduate PA will be able to:

4-1 Recognize one’s limitations in regard to patient care, knowledge and skill and seek help as needed

4-2 Accept responsibility for promoting a safe environment for patient care and recognizing and correcting systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care

4-3 Demonstrate respect for the dignity and privacy of patients while maintaining confidentiality in the delivery of team-based care

4-4 Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients and their families and other members of the healthcare team

4-5 Work effectively with physician and other healthcare professionals as a member or leader of a healthcare team or other professional group

4-6 Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients’ culture, age, gender, and disabilities

4-7 Describe how professionals in health and other fields collaborate and coordinate to optimize patient-centered care

4-8 Recognize financial implications to the provision of healthcare

4-9 Demonstrate understanding of different types of health systems, funding streams, and insurance, including the role of Medicare and Medicare as payors

4-10 Demonstrate understanding of legal and regulatory requirements, as well as the appropriate role of the physician assistant

4-11 Articulate standard of care practice

4-12 Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care

**DOMAIN 5- CLINICAL REASONING & PROBLEM SOLVING (CRPS)**

DESCRIPTION Clinical Reasoning and problem-solving skills involve identifying current evidenced based solutions to clinical questions for individual patients and for those of the community served. By using the concepts of information literacy to navigate and interpret current medical literature, the graduate PA will be able to answer those questions and apply evidence-based knowledge to formulate a solution. The graduate PA will be able to:

5-1 Locate, interpret, and apply current scientific evidence to guide clinical reasoning

5-2 Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment

5-3 Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from ongoing or published evidenced based literature related to their patients’ health problems

5-4 Obtain and apply information about their own population of patients and the larger population from which their patients are drawn

5-5 Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness