

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The University of Findlay

Master of Physician Assistant Program Technical Standards Acknowledgement Form

The abilities and skills which candidates and students should possess in order to complete the education and training associated with physician assistant education and subsequently enter clinical practice as a physician assistant are referred to as technical standards. These standards are prerequisites for entrance, continuation, and graduation from the MPA Program at The University of Findlay. The University of Findlay PA Program is a generalist type of PA program where graduates are able to work in any specialty and are held to the same standards while enrolled as a UF PA student. Therefore, you must be able to meet all technical standards regardless of whether or not the student feels that you will or will not work in a particular specialty.

The technical standards listed reflect five categorical areas: observation, communication, critical reasoning (intellectual), motor and sensory, and behavioral/social and represent minimum competence levels. Each standard is defined below and is followed by examples of indicators of minimum competence in that area.

Standard 1: Demonstrate sufficient attention and accuracy in **observation skills** (visual, auditory, and tactile) in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the patient's bedside and in the ambulatory care setting.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Accurate observation of a patient near and at a distance; recognizing non-verbal and verbal signs.
- Accurate identification of changes in color of fluids, skin, culture media, labs/diagnostic studies, and patient visual acuity.

Standard 2: Demonstrate effective **communication skills** with all ages of patients, and various degrees and types of infirmities and of varying cultures as well as others. Must be able to present information in front of individuals as well as large groups of people.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Clear, efficient and intelligible articulation of verbal language.
- Legible, efficient and intelligible written English language.
- Presenting material in class, lab, and clinical settings to individuals and large groups of people (30+).

Standard 3: Demonstrate **critical reasoning skills** including but not limited to intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information.
- Demonstrate the ability to acquire, retain, and apply new and learned information.

Standard 4: Demonstrate sufficient **motor and sensory function** to perform typical functions of physician assistants including but not limited to physical examinations, treatment interventions, and general care of patients.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Functional and sufficient sensory capacity (visual, auditory, and tactile) to adequately perform a complete physical examination and elicit information gained from proper use of examination tools and procedures.
- Execute the physical capabilities, strength, and stamina to sit, stand, and move within classroom, laboratory, and clinical areas including, but not limited to, examination rooms, treatment rooms, and surgical suites for long periods of time. This may involve pushing, pulling, and or lifting greater than 50 pounds and sitting and/or standing for 12 or more hours at a time, percussing on fingers.
- Capacity to proficiently use a computer (medical documentation, course assignments, testing, etc.).

Standard 5: Demonstrate the **behavioral and social attributes** vital to participation in a professional graduate level program and service as a practicing professional physician assistant.

Indicators include but are not limited to these examples:

- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of mental faculties (judgment, orientation, affect and cognition).
- Possess the ability to develop mature and effective professional relationships with patients, other members of the health care team, and the public.
- Recognize and assess patient changes in mood, activity, cognition, and verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Participate as a “patient” for the physical examination labs and other labs with a PA student partner as a part of empathy development from a patient perspective. This will require necessary exposure of skin, hair, and nails (including arms, legs, abdomen, and posterior thorax/back; genitalia and breasts will be covered).
- Fully participate in the lab settings and clinical settings without the use of any service animals. No service or support animals are permitted in the UF physical assessment and skills labs. Service animals may be permitted in the classroom setting depending on the activity (class vs. lab), but support animals are not permitted in any PA facility (classroom, lab, etc.). Service animals may or may not be permitted on clinical rotations depending on the site and the discipline.

Standard 6: Obtain all required vaccinations.

- All PA programs are required by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA) to have a policy on immunization and health screening that is based on the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for health professionals and state specific mandates (ARC-PA Standard of Accreditation A3.07a). UF PA program required vaccinations are listed below. Note that the COVID-19 vaccine is not a hard requirement at this time (see notes associated with it), but not receiving it may result in inability to complete the program. All other vaccines are required for all students with no exemptions permitted.
 - COVID-19 – annually or as recommended by the CDC: at this time, there are clinical sites that will accept students without COVID-19 vaccination. However, this could change at any time and failure to receive COVID-19 vaccination could result in the inability to complete the UF PA program or could significantly lengthen the clinical phase of the program resulting in a delay in graduation if sites are limited. If the program is unable to locate sites that will accept you as a student without COVID-19 vaccination, it would be necessary for you to locate sites that accept students without COVID-19 vaccination (and will participate with UF as a

preceptor/complete necessary legal documents/etc.) or withdraw from the UF PA program.

- Chickenpox vaccine (varicella) (or adequate titer)
- Flu vaccine (influenza) - annually
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Meningococcal vaccine
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine (or MMR titers proving immunization)
- Primary DPT series and tetanus booster (booster must be Tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (Tdap))
- PPD (tuberculin skin test), 2 step – if positive, quantiferon gold test (t-spot) required yearly thereafter

My signature below denotes that I have read and understand all of the technical standards listed above that are required of all UF PA students to be able to perform and I acknowledge that I am capable of performing them. The inability to perform/follow the technical standards above will result in dismissal (or not beginning the PA program) unless due to a temporary treatable medical condition that falls within the leave of absence policy if needed.

Legible printed name

Signature of Student

Date

My signature below denotes that I know of no deficits/barriers to the student's ability to meet the above standards at this time.

Printed name of Healthcare Provider

Signature of Healthcare Provider

Date