

MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

The following declaration of domains and competencies were developed by modifying content from the Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession¹. The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant 5th standards², Core Competencies for New PA Graduates³ and Entrustable Professional Activities⁴ also influenced the development of this document. All graduates of the program will demonstrate mastery of the competencies.

Domain 1: Medical Knowledge

Competencies

- 1.1 Apply principles of evidence-based medicine
- 1.2 Recognize etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, and epidemiology for common medical and surgical conditions
- 1.3 Distinguish the signs, symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnostic work-up, and management of common medical and surgical conditions, across healthcare settings and care levels
- 1.4 Indicate disease prevention and health promotion principles

Domain 2: Patient Care

Competencies

- 2.1 Provide patient-centered care, across the lifespan, as part of a health care team
- 2.2 Obtain an accurate patient history and physical examination
- 2.3 Discriminate appropriate differential diagnoses
- 2.4 Compare diagnostic and therapeutic interventions in a patient-centered approach
- 2.5 Perform medical and surgical procedures appropriate to the scope of practice
- 2.6 Counsel and educate patients and their families in accordance with health literacy levels
- 2.7 Utilize information technology effectively to enhance patient care
- 2.8 Implement health promotion and disease prevention interventions

Domain 3: Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Competencies

- 3.1 Cultivate self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative in self and others
- 3.2 Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from scientific studies to clinical practice
- 3.3 Recognize and address personal biases and gaps in medical knowledge through lifelong learning
- 3.4 Analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology in concert with other members of the health care delivery team

Domain 4: Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Competencies

- 4.1 Create and sustain an ethically sound therapeutic relationship with patients
- 4.2 Adapt communication style to the context of the interaction
- 4.3 Work effectively within a health care team
- 4.4 Demonstrate emotional stability, respect, and compassion during interactions and in communication
- 4.5 Effectively relay accurate and adequate clinical information (verbal and written)

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Domain 5: Professionalism

Competencies

- 5.1 Summarize legal and regulatory requirements for PA practice
- 5.2 Distinguish the role of the physician assistant in a given practice setting
- 5.3 Maintain professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers
- 5.4 Exemplify accountability to patients, society, and the profession
- 5.5 Demonstrate commitment to ethical behavior and principles regarding privacy, business practices, and provision or withholding of clinical care
- 5.6 Demonstrate sensitivity to patients' culture, age, gender, abilities, and autonomy
- 5.7 Maintain healthy behaviors and work-life balance
- 5.8 Demonstrate leadership in the community and profession
- 5.9 Demonstrate personal, professional and intellectual integrity.

Domain 6: Systems-based Practice

Competencies

- 6.1 Function effectively within different types of medical delivery systems
- 6.2 Interpret funding sources and payment systems
- 6.3 Practice cost-conscious health care
- 6.4 Assist patients in dealing with system complexities
- 6.5 Recognize and attempt to correct systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care
- 6.6 Partner with stakeholders to improve patient outcomes
- 6.7 Use medical information and clinical data systems effectively

Location and Evaluation of Program's Competencies

All didactic and clinical courses address all six domains. Enriched pedagogical tools and clinical experiences provide fundamental and patient specific instruction. Competency assessment occurs with multiple choice examinations, individual and group projects, practical examinations, standardized patient encounters, clinical encounters, preceptor evaluations.

1. Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession. Originally adopted 2005; revised 2012. <https://www.aapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/PA-Competencies-updated.pdf>.
2. Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Notes to Programs. Spring 2019. <http://www.arc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Standards-5th-Ed-Sept-2019-fnl.pdf>.
3. Core Competencies for New Physician Assistant Graduates. Physician Assistant Education Association. https://paelearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Core-Competencies-for-New-PA-Graduates_FINAL_061918.pdf Accessed January 2020.
4. Obeso V, Brown D, Aiyer M, Barron B, Bull J, Carter T, et al, eds.; for *Core EPAs for Entering Residency Pilot Program*. Toolkits for the 13 Core Entrustable Professional Activities for Entering Residency. Washington, DC: Association of American Medical Colleges; 2017. aamc.org/initiatives/coreepas/publicationsandpresentations.