

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

## MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND CONTINUATION

**Read this information sheet carefully and retain for your records**

### Introduction

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act require that no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University's (DHSU) services, programs or activities or be subjected to discrimination by SUNY Downstate. The term "qualified individual with a disability" means an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or for participation in programs or activities. The Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. Students must be able to perform the essential functions of the program in order to meet certain minimum academic and technical standards. In carrying out their functions, the Committee will be guided by the technical standards set forth in this proposal as standards necessary for admissions, continuance and successful completion of the program. This information is used in conjunction with the policies and procedures as delineated in the Physician Assistant Educational Program Student Manual.

### Technical Standards

The candidate for the M.S. Degree in Physician Assistant must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Performing in a reasonably independent manner is an essential function of the program and profession. In order to carry out the activities described below, candidates for the M.S. Degree in Physician Assistant must be able to consistently and accurately learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

A candidate for the M.S. Degree in Physician Assistant must have abilities, attributes, and skills in five major areas:

- Cognitive Abilities
- Communication Skills
- Motor and Sensory Abilities

- Emotional and Behavioral Attributes
- Ethical and Professional Conduct

### **Cognitive Abilities**

- Demonstrate the ability to acquire, integrate, and apply knowledge across various disciplines, including but not limited to anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and medical sciences.
- Possess critical thinking skills to analyze and synthesize complex medical information, formulate differential diagnoses, and develop evidence-based treatment plans.
- Ability to comprehend and interpret medical literature, research findings, and healthcare policies to inform clinical decision-making.

### **Communication Skills**

- Effectively communicate with patients, families, healthcare professionals, and colleagues in verbal, non-verbal, and written forms.
- Demonstrate active listening skills to comprehend patient concerns, provide clear explanations of medical conditions and treatment options, and address questions or uncertainties.
- Ability to document patient encounters accurately and comprehensively in medical records, ensuring clarity, conciseness, and adherence to professional standards.
- Exhibit proficiency in delivering oral presentations to faculty and student groups, as well as conducting in-service presentations to clinical staff.

### **Motor and Sensory Abilities**

- Possess fine motor skills and dexterity necessary to perform physical examinations, procedures, and surgical tasks safely and accurately.
- Demonstrate tactile sensitivity and manual dexterity to palpate anatomical structures, administer injections, suture wounds, and manipulate medical instruments with precision.
- Maintain visual acuity, depth perception, and color vision sufficient to assess patient conditions, interpret diagnostic tests, and perform invasive procedures with attention to detail.

### **Emotional and Behavioral Attributes**

- Exhibit empathy, compassion, and cultural competence in interactions with patients from diverse backgrounds, demonstrating respect for individual beliefs, values, and preferences.
- Manage stress, anxiety, and emotional reactions effectively in high-pressure clinical environments, maintaining composure, professionalism, and ethical conduct.
- Collaborate with healthcare teams and adapt to changing circumstances, demonstrating flexibility, resilience, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

### **Ethics and Professional Conduct**

- Uphold ethical principles, integrity, and confidentiality in all aspects of patient care, research, and professional interactions, adhering to legal and regulatory standards.

- Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning, continuing education, and professional development to stay abreast of advances in medical knowledge, technology, and best practices.
- Accept responsibility for personal actions, decisions, and outcomes, recognizing the importance of accountability, integrity, and self-regulation in the practice of medicine.

## Conclusion

The technical standards outlined above provide a framework for evaluating candidates' suitability for admission to the SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Physician Assistant program. Candidates are expected to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodations, as determined on a case-by-case basis. By maintaining rigorous standards for cognitive abilities, communication skills, motor and sensory abilities, emotional and behavioral attributes, and ethical and professional conduct, SUNY DHSU ensures that graduates are competent, compassionate, and capable of providing high-quality healthcare services to patients across diverse settings.

## Signature

I have read, understand, and agree to the technical standards as published above.

---

Signature

---

Date