

Program Competencies and Technical Standards

Program Competencies

1. Patient-centered Practice Knowledge (PPK) - Demonstrate knowledge of biomedical sciences and apply it to patient care in preventive, emergent, acute, chronic, and rehabilitative clinical conditions/settings, and across the lifespan.
2. Interpersonal and Communication Skills (ICS) – Establish relationships with healthcare team members, patients, and their families that create a safe and quality environment. Deliver clear communication using various modalities accurately and effectively. Establish compassionate relationships with patients and families that encourage open communication, education, and therapeutic interactions.
3. Clinical and Technical Skills (CTS) – Conduct comprehensive and efficient history-taking and physical examination which are appropriate to the necessary acuity and level of care. Evaluate the risk-benefit ratio for procedures and communicate potential risks to patients and their families. Competently perform procedural and clinical skills common to PA practice.
4. Professionalism and Ethical Practice (PEP) – Demonstrate commitment to practicing medicine adhering to the tenets of the Hippocratic Oath. Exhibit self-awareness to identify strengths, address deficiencies, and recognize limits in skills and knowledge. Identify implicit bias and act with cultural humility to patients and healthcare team members. Demonstrate commitment to personal wellness and lifelong learning.
5. Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving Abilities (CRPS) - Demonstrate an analytic approach to clinical care using the synthesis of information gained through the patient encounter, medical knowledge, and available resources to formulate comprehensive care plans.
6. Society and Population Health (SPH) – Incorporate knowledge of the multitude of impacts on health to formulate comprehensive care plans. Understand how prior experiences and external influences can affect health, and compliance. Create a clinical atmosphere that is equitable and removes barriers to access to care.

Technical Standards

The Physician Assistant (PA) Program at ECPI University is dedicated to preparing students to practice safe, ethical, and effective medicine. To achieve this, all applicants and students must meet the following technical standards, which are essential

requirements for admission, retention, and graduation. These standards ensure graduates possess the skills and abilities necessary to function as competent healthcare providers. These standards are in alignment with national accreditation requirements and professional benchmarks for physician assistants.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for students with disabilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and institutional policies. . Please view the University Catalog “[Students with Disabilities Policy and Procedures](#)” for information on how to request accommodations

Observation and Sensory Abilities

Applicants and students must possess sufficient sensory capabilities to observe and assess patients accurately. This includes the ability to:

- Observe demonstrations, experiments, and waveform readings.
- Use vision, hearing, and somatic senses to assess patients at both close range and distance.
- Distinguish tissue texture, and symmetry/asymmetry.
- Integrate sensory information to make appropriate clinical decisions.

Communication Skills

Effective communication is essential for accurate data collection, patient care, and collaboration with the healthcare team. Students must:

- Communicate clearly and effectively in spoken, written, and electronic formats.
- Elicit and convey patient histories, document data, and interpret findings accurately.
- Perceive and respond to nonverbal communication cues from patients and colleagues.
- Engage in empathetic, culturally sensitive communication to establish rapport.

Motor and Tactile Skills

Students must possess adequate motor and tactile abilities to perform essential diagnostic and clinical tasks, including but not limited to:

- Performing physical examinations, including palpation, auscultation, and percussion.

- Conducting procedures such as suturing, lumbar punctures, and assisting in surgery.
- Providing emergency interventions like cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Maintaining stamina to handle physically demanding workloads in classroom and clinical settings.

Cognitive and Intellectual Abilities

The program requires students to demonstrate cognitive abilities that ensure effective clinical reasoning and decision-making. Students must:

- Assimilate and integrate complex medical information from lectures, readings, and clinical experiences.
- Retain, analyze, and synthesize information to form diagnostic and therapeutic plans.
- Exhibit critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to make sound judgments under pressure.

Behavioral and Professional Attributes

Emotional stability, resilience, and professionalism are critical for effective practice as a PA. Students must:

- Demonstrate integrity, empathy, and compassion in interactions with patients and the healthcare team.
- Maintain composure and professionalism in high-stress or rapidly changing situations.
- Exhibit self-awareness, seek feedback, and engage in continuous self-improvement.
- Adhere to ethical standards and respect diverse cultural and social perspectives.

The PA Program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals. Students are encouraged to contact the Campus President to discuss their needs and initiate the accommodations process. The program is committed to supporting all students while maintaining the integrity of its technical standards. Please view the University Catalog [“Students with Disabilities Policy and Procedures”](#) for information on how to request accommodations.

