

Assumption University PA Program Technical Standards

Students must meet the technical standards of the Assumption University PA program with or without reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act upon admission and continue to demonstrate them throughout their participation in the program. The use of a human intermediary to meet these technical standards means that a student's judgment is guided by another person's powers of observation and interpretation. Students are, therefore, not permitted to use such intermediaries in meeting the technical standards of the Assumption University PA program. Any student found in violation of technical standards is subject to dismissal.

Observation/Sensory

Students must possess functional vision, hearing, olfactory, and somatic/tactile sensation to:

- Participate in the classroom (i.e., see and hear lectures, see lecture slides).
- Participate in the laboratory setting (i.e., participate in anatomy dissections and clinical skills labs).
- Participate in the clinical setting as both a student and as a clinician. All students must be able to complete measurements associated with competent use of bedside diagnostic equipment, such as, but not limited to, the sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, ophthalmoscope and otoscope, and diagnostic tests.
- Perform physical exams.

Communication

Students must be able to communicate with patients, families, and other providers during their training and beyond to:

- Speak and empathetically interact with patients, families, and other providers to elicit information to base diagnosis and therapeutic plans.
- Understand verbal and nonverbal communication between patients and families to elicit accurate histories.
- Read and write (paper vs electronic) to accurately document within the medical record.
- Communicate the findings of the patient's problems and medical condition to members of the medical team in an oral report.
- Communicate with professors or preceptors when called upon to answer questions.
- Accurately and promptly respond to pages, emails, and other communications from other members of the health care team, faculty, administrators, mentors, course directors, deans, or educational leaders.

Sensory and Motor

Students must have the gross and fine motor skills required to competently perform and accurately interpret information from the complete physical examination of any patient utilizing palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Students must be able to:

- Accurately observe and to process visual, auditory, exteroceptive (smell, touch, pain, and temperature) and proprioceptive (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) phenomena.
- Handle medical instruments and equipment with precision.
- Respond promptly to medical emergencies and function appropriately as a member the medical team (with appropriate supervision).
- Tolerate physically taxing workloads, long work hours, and standing for several hours at a time.

Intellectual

Students must have the intellectual capabilities to withstand the rigors of their training and throughout their professional career. Students must possess the ability to:

- Intellectually and cognitively meet the rigors and demands of the didactic and clinical portions of the PA program.
- Obtain, retain, understand, and apply the critical intelligence and knowledge within the PA studies curriculum.
- Incorporate additional information from peers, professors, and the medical literature to be able to formulate diagnoses and treatment plans.
- Execute skilled clinical reasoning and problem solving.
- Deal with problems and tasks simultaneously
- Identify limits in their knowledge

Professionalism: Behavioral/Social Proficiency

Students must always conduct themselves with the highest standards of professionalism as expected by patients, peers, faculty, and those in the various healthcare professions. Students must act with integrity and honesty in all interactions, both in the classroom and in clinical settings. They must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the competencies required by the faculty. In addition, the student must consistently demonstrate the capacity for accountability and responsibility expected of a PA.

Consistent with the qualities of professionalism expected of a PA, students who matriculate in the Assumption University PA program must:

- demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills,
- exercise sound judgment,
- be consistently punctual for all required activities,
- demonstrate respect for individuals and forming effective relationships with patients of all ages, gender, heritage, sexual orientation, cultural and religious backgrounds,
- demonstrate cultural sensitivity,
- possess emotional stability in stressful situations,
- respond to emails, phone calls, pages, etc. in a timely manner,
- maintain the highest professional standards on social media,
- assure the confidentiality of patient information,
- abide by all rules, regulations, and policies of the school and clinical training sites, student handbook, and honor code,
- accept constructive feedback from others, take responsibility for actions, and make appropriate, positive changes,
- engage in respectful, timely, and effective communication,
- work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of educational and healthcare teams, and with peers, supervisors, and faculty,
- demonstrate motivation to learn in all settings,
- demonstrate empathy and concern for others, and
- show compassion for patients while maintaining appropriate boundaries for professional relationships.

Students must function effectively under stress and possess adequate endurance to successfully meet their academic and clinical responsibilities. Students must be able to successfully adapt to changing environments and situations, demonstrating necessary flexibility. They must learn to function in the setting of patient care and in the face of uncertainties inherent in the practice of medicine. Students must also be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and long work hours.

Ethical/legal

Students planning to work as a PA must be able to meet the requirements for licensure. All potential limitations or legal disciplinary action must be acknowledged in writing prior to matriculation. Should legal action take place against any student during the program, the student is required to disclose the incident(s). Failure to disclose, either prior to program admission or during program enrollment, is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Adopted from the [UMass Chan Medical School Technical Standards](#).