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Assumption University

School of Health Professions

PA PROGRAM

**“DONEC FORMETUR CHRISTUS IN VOBIS”**

Technical Standards

Richard J. and Sophia Catrambone Health Sciences Building

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| **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.

## **Technical Standards**

### **Annual Attestation**

Enrolled students are required to attest annually that they meet the Assumption University PA Program technical standards either with or without reasonable accommodations.

### **Communication**

1. Students must be able to relate effectively and sensitively with patients and family members of all genders, ages, races, lifestyles, sexual orientations, political, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Students must be able to convey a sense of compassion, empathy, and respect. Students must be able to communicate with faculty, supervisors, and other members of the health care team. Communication includes:
   1. Verbal and non-verbal communication with patients to elicit accurate histories.
   2. Preparation of oral and written presentations about patients’ problems and medical conditions.
   3. Communication of complex findings, interpretations, and recommendations to patients, family members, and other members of the health care team.
   4. Recognition of emotional states such as sadness, worry, agitation, and lack of comprehension of provider communication.
   5. Communication with patients and family members through translators when appropriate.
   6. Reading and recording observations, assessments, and plans legibly in electronic and paper patient records and in other communications with colleagues.
   7. Maintenance of computer skills to access patient records and medical information, and to record information in patient records.
   8. Accurate and timely response to pages, emails, and other communications from other members of the health care team, faculty, administrators, mentors, course directors, deans, or educational leaders.
   9. Active interaction with professors or preceptors when called upon to answer questions.

### **Ethical and Legal**

1. 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 before 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 before program admission or during program enrollment, is grounds for dismissal from the program.

### **Intellectual – Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities**

1. These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, judgment, and synthesis. The PA student must possess these intellectual abilities to be skilled in clinical reasoning and problem-solving. In addition, the PA student is expected to:
   1. Assimilate new information from peers, teachers, and the medical literature in formulating diagnoses and plans.
   2. Comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships of structures.
   3. Deal simultaneously with several problems and/or tasks and properly triage the work at hand.
   4. Identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others when appropriate.
   5. Possess good judgment and effective teamwork in patient care, and course assignments.
   6. Possess the intellectual capabilities to withstand the rigors of PA training.
   7. Process important findings from history, physical examination, and laboratory data to develop a reasoned explanation for patients’ differential diagnoses.
   8. Under supervision, integrate information and develop a cost-effective diagnostic and management plan.

### **Observation**

1. Students must be able to make accurate observations in both the clinical sciences and basic sciences.  Such observations may include, but are not limited to:
   1. Participation in anatomic dissection of preserved tissues and cadavers
   2. Microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states.
   3. Demonstrations in the classroom or online including slides, films, and videos.
   4. Discernment of signs of illness, discomfort, and emotional state through direct observations of patients.
   5. Measurements associated with competent use of bedside diagnostic equipment, such as, but not limited to, the sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, and otoscope.
   6. Diagnostic tests.

**Professionalism Behavioral & Social Attributes**

1. 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 the 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:
   1. Abide by all rules, regulations, and policies of the school and clinical training sites, student handbook, and honor code.
   2. Accept constructive feedback from others, take responsibility for actions, and make appropriate, positive changes.
   3. Assure the confidentiality of patient information.
   4. Be consistently punctual for all required activities.
   5. Demonstrate cultural sensitivity.
   6. Demonstrate empathy and concern for others.
   7. Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills.
   8. Demonstrate motivation to learn in all settings.
   9. Demonstrate respect for individuals and form effective relationships with patients of all ages, gender, heritage, sexual orientation, cultural, and religious backgrounds.
   10. Engage in respectful, timely, and effective communication.
   11. Exercise sound judgment.
   12. Maintain the highest professional standards on social media.
   13. Possess emotional stability in stressful situations.
   14. Respond to emails, phone calls, pages, etc. in a timely manner.
   15. Show compassion for patients while maintaining appropriate boundaries for professional relationships.
   16. Work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of educational and healthcare teams, and with peers, supervisors, and faculty.

### **Sensory and Motor**

1. 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:
   1. Accurately observe and to process visual, auditory, exteroceptive (smell, touch, pain, and temperature) and proprioceptive (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) phenomena.
   2. Handle medical instruments and equipment with precision.
   3. Respond promptly to medical emergencies and function appropriately as a member the medical team (with appropriate supervision).
   4. Tolerate physically taxing workloads, long work hours, and standing for several hours at a time.

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.

Maintaining the standards of professionalism is an essential component of patient care and the practice of medicine. Student violations of the standards of professionalism may lead to dismissal from the Assumption University PA Program.

Adopted from the [UMass Chan Medical School Technical Standards](https://www.umassmed.edu/som/admissions/apply/technical-standards/).

Students who fail to continuously meet any of these technical standards will be referred to the Technical Standards Committee for evaluation. If they cannot, with or without accommodations meet the technical standards, they will be referred to the Academic Performance and Professionalism Committee for dismissal from the program. *Students will* [*attest annually*](#_Attestation_Regarding_Technical) *to being able to meet each requirement.*

[[ARC-PA Standard A3.13e](#_d)_any_required)]

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| **ARC-PA Standards (5th Edition)** |

## **A3.13 The program must define, publish, consistently apply and make readily available to prospective students, policies and procedures to include:**

### **e) any required technical standards for enrollment**

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| **Symbolism of the Assumption University Seal** |

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The Assumption College seal was designed by Brother Gerard Brassard, A.A. in 1954 when the College and the Assumption Preparatory School became separate, distinct entities. The elements of the official Assumption College seal each have symbolic meaning and tell the story of the College’s rich history and goals.

The seal’s blue and white coloring and the crowned “M” in the upper left-hand section of the shield both signify the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patron of the Augustinians of the Assumption.

A fleur-de-lis cross quarters the shield, its presence a representation of the College’s faith and its styling an acknowledgment of its location within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester, which employs a similar style of cross in its coat of arms.

On the cross is an open book: it represents the Gospel, which is the foundation of teaching at a Catholic institution of higher learning, as well as a more general signifier of knowledge and wisdom. Written on the book are the letters ART, a shortened form of “Adveniat Regnum Tuum” (Thy Kingdom Come), a phrase from the Lord’s Prayer that serves as the motto of the Assumptionists.

In the lower right corner, the fleur-de-lis is a reminder of the French origin of the College’s founding religious order.

Together, these components of the seal remind us of what it means to be a member of the Assumption College community and how we are all inheritors of a proud tradition.

Light the way.

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**The Assumption University Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program has applied for Accreditation-Provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).  The program anticipates matriculating its first class in January 2024, pending achieving Accreditation-Provisional status at the June 2023 ARC-PA meeting.  “Accreditation-Provisional” is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.  If the Assumption University is not granted accreditation, no students will be enrolled in the program, and any deposits paid will be refunded.  CASPA application fees will not be refunded.**

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