

Assumption University PA Program Competencies

1. Medical Knowledge

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will be able to apply comprehensive biomedical and clinical knowledge to deliver safe, evidence-based, patient centered care across the lifespan.

Competencies:

- a. Apply biomedical and clinical science knowledge to diagnose and manage common medical conditions.
- b. Differentiate normal from abnormal health states using patient history, physical examination findings, and diagnostic results.
- c. Evaluate pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment options to develop safe, effective, and evidenced-based management plans for patient care across the lifespan.

2. Clinical Skills

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will be able to demonstrate the age-appropriate clinical skills needed for the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of diverse patient populations.

Competencies:

- a. Perform comprehensive and focused patient histories and physical examinations to support accurate clinical assessment and diagnosis.
- b. Document patient encounters clearly and accurately in the medical record.
- c. Order appropriate diagnostic studies, including laboratory and imaging tests, based on patient presentation and clinical findings.
- d. Prescribe pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions that align with clinical indications, patient safety, and regulatory standards.

3. Technical Skills

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will be able to safely and effectively perform essential procedural skills required for patient care.

Competencies:

- a. Perform clinical procedures using appropriate techniques, safety measures, and clinical judgement as expected of an entry level PA.

4. Clinical Reasoning and Problem-Solving

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will be able to analyze complex patient cases, cues, and clinical contexts through clinical reasoning and advanced problem-solving skills.

Competencies:

- a. Formulate differential diagnoses through the clinical synthesis of patient history, physical examination findings, and diagnostic data.
- b. Synthesize patient history, physical findings, and diagnostic data to develop age-appropriate management plans.

c. Recognize acute, chronic, urgent, and emergent health conditions to guide appropriate evaluation and intervention.

5. Health Literacy, Communication, and Interpersonal Skills

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will be able to communicate effectively and professionally with patients, families, and health care teams using strong interpersonal skills that support health literacy, patient education, and collaborative care.

Competencies:

a. Communicate effectively with patients, families, and members of the healthcare team across diverse clinical settings to elicit and provide medical information.

b. Educate patients using communication strategies that promote health literacy, prevention, and informed decision making.

6. Interprofessional Collaboration and Leadership

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will demonstrate effective interprofessional collaboration and leadership to support coordinated patient centered care.

Competencies:

a. Collaborate effectively with members of the healthcare team to provide patient centered care.

b. Demonstrate leadership behaviors that support teamwork, patient safety, and effective healthcare delivery.

7. Professional Behaviors

Graduates of the Assumption University PA program will be able to demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with ethical practice, accountability, and respect for patients, colleagues, and the PA profession.

Competencies:

a. Demonstrate ethical decision making, accountability, and professional conduct in academic and clinical settings.

b. Comply with legal and regulatory requirements including patient confidentiality and professional practice standards.

c. Demonstrate service, social responsibility, and advocacy that promote equitable healthcare access for diverse and underserved populations.

ARC-PA Standard A3.11g