



College of Health Sciences Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPA) Program

Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation

A candidate for admission to the PA program must possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, certain sensory and motor functions, that would enable the individual to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below throughout their progression in the PA program. Graduation from the program signifies that the individual is prepared for entry into clinical practice or into postgraduate training programs. Therefore, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills needed to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic care. The candidate must be able to integrate - consistently, quickly, and accurately - all information received by whatever sense(s) are employed. In addition, they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

This program requires the performance of specific essential functions, which include, but are not limited to, the following: observation; communication; motor; intellectual, conceptual, integrative and quantitative; and behavioral and social.

For candidates or students who require reasonable accommodation(s) to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy/Accommodation and Resource Center (CDHP/AARC) at (909) 469-5297.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation:

Observation

Candidates and students ordinarily must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

Communication

Candidates and students must be able to communicate sensitively in English, orally and in writing, with patients, family members, and colleagues. Candidates and students must be able to interpret communication of others effectively. They must possess functional hearing. Candidates and students must also be able to recognize and respond to soft voices or voices under protective garb, auditory timers, equipment/emergency alarms, joint noises, and to use devices for the measurement of vital signs, cardiac, and breathe sounds effectively. Candidates and students must be able to read, write, and speak English.

Motor

Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of PAs are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, opening of obstructed airways, suturing of simple wounds, performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers, and movement of patients. These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch, hearing, and vision.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical intellectual skill demanded of a physician assistant, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates and

students should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral and Social Abilities

Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of the intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the assessment and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, and interest, motivation, and professionalism are all personal qualities to be assessed during the admissions and educational processes.

Ethical Standards

Candidates and students must demonstrate the ability to reason morally and practice as a PA in a professional and ethical manner with patients, families and other health care workers as well as with faculty, staff, and peers.