

Technical Standards Milligan University MSPAS Program

Physician assistant students must possess the physical, emotional, and behavioral capabilities necessary for the practice of medicine as a PA. Graduates of this program must have the knowledge and skills to practice medicine in a wide variety of clinical situations. They will provide a wide range of patient care and must have the physical and emotional stamina to handle heavy workloads and meet a patient's needs in stressful situations. In order to successfully complete the PA clinical training program, students must be able to perform specific essential functions that are deemed necessary for the practice of medicine. These functions are known as technical standards and they are described below.

Observation

Physician assistant students must be able to observe visual presentations, demonstrations, laboratory findings, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. He or she must also be able to observe a patient's physical condition and demeanor accurately and completely, both at a distance and closely. This includes obtaining a medical history, correctly performing a complete physical exam, and forming an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan using the information gathered from the history and physical. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, smell, and somatic sensation or the functional equivalent.

Communication

Physician assistant students must be able to effectively communicate with and observe patients in a clinical setting in order to elicit information, detect changes in mood or activity, and perceive nonverbal communications. He or she must be able to speak fluent English and communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and families in verbal and written form. Students must also be able to communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team in oral, written, and electronic form and provide accurate information in patient care settings.

Motor

Physician assistant students should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, and percussion, as well as other diagnostic maneuvers necessary to perform a complete physical examination. He or she must be able to perform clinical skills, laboratory procedures, and have motor function sufficient to execute movements to reasonably provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. They must also be able to bend, maneuver, lift, and assist patients. These skills require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and sensation. A candidate must be able to transport themselves from one location to another in a timely fashion in order to receive educational instruction and provide patient care responsibilities.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative

Physician assistant students must be very effective at problem solving which is a critical skill required of physician assistants. He or she must have the ability to comprehend, memorize, interpret, and analyze information presented in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings. Students must be able to collect, organize, and interpret information and use it to make diagnostic and therapeutic decisions. They must also be able to assimilate information presented in a wide variety of educational settings

including classroom instruction, group interaction, individual study and clinical settings, and research and use it appropriately for problem solving and decision making.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Physician assistant students must have the emotional health to fully utilize his or her intellectual capabilities, exercise good judgement, and promptly complete all responsibilities related to the diagnosis and care of patients. He or she must be able to develop sensitive, mature, effective, and empathetic relationships with patients, their families, and other healthcare providers. Students should be able to recognize limitations, receive constructive criticism and respond appropriately by modifying their behavior, and persevere through a challenging classroom and clinical curriculum. They must be able to positively interact with people from all levels of society, ethnic backgrounds, and all belief systems. He or she must have a high level of integrity, compassion, and a willingness and desire to serve others.

In accordance with Milligan University's policy and as delineated by Federal and Tennessee law, the University does not discriminate in admission, educational programs or employment against any individual on the basis of that individual's handicap or disability and will make good faith efforts at providing reasonable accommodation as required. However, as part of the admission process, all applicants must be able to perform all listed technical requirements. Physician Assistant program applicants and students should direct any questions regarding technical standards to Heather Cramer, Director of Student Success and Disability Services, by phone at 423-794-3088 or email at HMCramer@milligan.edu.