

TUN PA PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

for entry level practice

PA STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Medical Knowledge

- 1.1 Apply scientific principles related to patient care
- 1.2 Know etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, and epidemiology for medical conditions
- 1.3 Recognize signs and symptoms of medical and surgical conditions
- 1.4 Perform appropriate diagnostic studies
- 1.5 Manage general medical and surgical conditions to include pharmacologic and other treatment modalities
- 1.6 Use screening methods to detect conditions in an asymptomatic individual
- 1.7 Integrate history and physical findings and diagnostic studies to formulate differential diagnoses

2. Patient Care

- 2.1 Make decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, evidence-based medicine, current guidelines and standards, and informed clinical judgment
- 2.2 Interpret laboratory data, electrophysiology studies, and other tests required to evaluate patient
- 2.3 Develop and implement patient management plans in a safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable manner
- 2.4 Counsel and educate patients and their families in accordance with principles of patient-centered care
- 2.5 Perform medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures essential to providing care
- 2.6 Provide health care services and education aimed at disease prevention and health maintenance
- 2.7 Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education
- 2.8 Apply the concepts of population health to patient care

3. Professionalism

- 3.1 Work effectively with other health care professionals to provide excellent patient-centered care
- 3.2 Demonstrate respect, compassion and integrity when interacting with patients and their families
- 3.3 Commit to ethical principles in all aspects of practice including interaction with patients, provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices
- 3.4 Show sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, socio-economic status, abilities, and health literacy
- 3.5 Understand legal and regulatory requirements and the role of the physician assistant
- 3.6 Act as a role model to others

4. Interpersonal and communication skills

- 4.1 Use effective communication skills to elicit and provide information at a level patients can understand
- 4.2 Demonstrate emotional competence and honesty in difficult conversations, including those about death, end of life, adverse events, bad news, disclosure of errors, and other sensitive topics
- 4.3 Work with other health professionals to establish and maintain a climate of mutual respect, dignity, diversity, ethical integrity, and trust
- 4.4 Demonstrate emotional resilience and stability, adaptability, flexibility, and tolerance of ambiguity and anxiety
- 4.5 Accurately and adequately document information regarding care for medical, legal, quality, and financial purposes

5. Practice-based learning and improvement

- 5.1 Analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology in concert with other members of the health care delivery team

- 5.2 Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical literature and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness
- 5.3 Utilize information technology to manage information, access medical information, and support their own education

6. Systems-based practice

- 6.1 Effectively interact with different types of medical practice and delivery systems
- 6.2 Understand the funding sources and payment systems that provide coverage for patient care and use the systems effectively
- 6.3 Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities
- 6.4 Promote a safe environment for patient care and recognize and correct systems-based factors that negatively impact patient care
- 6.5 Apply medical information and clinical data systems to provide effective, efficient patient care
- 6.6 Recognize and appropriately address system biases that contribute to health care disparities
- 6.7 Partner with students, health care providers and health care managers to assess, coordinate and improve the delivery and effectiveness of health care and patient outcomes

7. Community and population health

- 7.1 Recognize the cultural norms, needs, influences, and socioeconomic, environmental, and other population-level determinants affecting the health of the individual and community being served
- 7.2 Understand the need for community engagement and multi-sector collaboration in achieving health equity
- 7.3 Recognize the value of surveillance and reporting to address community and population health care issues.

Sources:

ARC-PA, NCCPA, PAEA, AAPA. Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession. (2012).

<https://www.aapa.org/career-central/employer-resources/employing-a-pa/competencies-physician-assistant-profession/>

Englander R, Cameron T, Ballard AJ, Dodge J, Bull J, Aschenbrener CA. Toward a common taxonomy of competency domains for the health professions and competencies for physicians. *Academic Medicine*. 2013;88(8):1088-1094.

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