

Saint Francis College Department of Physician Assistant Sciences
Student Technical Standards

GENERAL AREA: STUDENTS, SECTION IC from the Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant.

OBJECTIVE: STUDENTS, SECTION IC, 1

"Specific academic and technical standards and requirements for prior education or work experience must be clearly defined, published, and readily accessible to prospective students and the public."

GENERAL AREA: SECTION II: SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION IN THE PROFESSION

OBJECTIVE: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROFESSION, SECTION IIA

The physician assistant is academically and clinically prepared to provide health care services with the direction and responsible supervision of a doctor of medicine or osteopathy. Within the physician/physician assistant relationship, physician assistants make clinical decisions and provide a broad range of diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive and health maintenance services. The clinical role of physician assistants includes primary and specialty care in medical and surgical practice settings. Physician assistant practice is centered on patient care and may include educational, research and administrative activities.

As stated in the Standards, functions performed by physician assistants include (as a minimum) the following general categories of services:

- Evaluation
- Monitoring
- Therapeutic
- Patient Education
- Referral

To provide the services listed above in a compassionate, competent and efficient manner, students in the PA Program will need to be capable of performing the following techniques on their own or with reasonable adaptations:

General Characteristics: The role of the physician assistant demands intelligence, sound judgment, intellectual honesty, appropriate interpersonal skills and the capacity to react to emergencies in a calm and reasoned manner.

The student needs to:

- have an attitude of respect for self and others, adherence to the concepts of privilege and confidentiality in communicating with patients, and a commitment to the patient's welfare
- have the mental capacity and physical abilities to assimilate large amounts of complex information and apply that information in an interpreted fashion to solve clinical problems and formulate therapeutic and diagnostic plans in an accurate and efficient manner
- remain calm and reasoned in a high stress environment and respond quickly and appropriately in emergencies

History Taking: Initially approaching a patient of any age group in any setting to elicit an accurate, detailed history (appropriate to the situation) and record that data in an acceptable fashion.

The student needs to:

- be able to speak fluent English to relate to most patient situations
- have the ability to adjust his/her level of communication to the patient's level of understanding
- demonstrate interactive verbal and written communication skills

Physical Examination: Perform a complete or partial physical examination of a patient of any age, sex or condition in any setting.

The student needs to possess:

- adequate auditory acuity to accurately use a stethoscope, tuning forks, etc.
- adequate visual acuity for inspection techniques and the use of an ophthalmoscope
- adequate depth perception for surgical/technical procedures, and the accurate use of an oto-ophthalmoscope and microscope
- keen tactile sensation for palpation techniques

Diagnostic Skills: Identify, perform, order, and/or interpret at least to the point of recognizing deviations from the norm, common laboratory, radiologic, cardiographic, and other routine diagnostic procedures used to identify pathophysiologic processes.

The student needs to possess:

- accurate visual and auditory acuity for the interpretation of diagnostic procedures
- the ability to reason a patient's problem in an orderly fashion
- competency in the integration of didactic skills, as demonstrated by written and practical examinations
- ability to record diagnostic and other findings accurately, efficiently and clearly

Therapeutic Skills: Performing routine procedures such as injections, immunizations, suturing and wound care, managing simple conditions produced by infection or trauma, assisting in the management of more complex illness and injury, and taking initiative in performing evaluation and therapeutic procedures in response to life-threatening situations.

The student needs to demonstrate:

- flexibility, dexterity and strength of his/her extremities for use in surgical/technical procedures
- degree of coordination in motor skills is needed to respond to emergency situations quickly and appropriately

Training Objectives for Graduates of the Saint Francis College Department of Physician Assistant Sciences Physician Assistant Program

GENERAL AREA: SECTION IIA from the Standards and Guidelines for an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant.

As stated in the Standards and Guidelines:

A. Description of the Profession:

Services performed by physician assistants while practicing with physician supervision include but are not limited to the following:

Evaluation: Elicit a detailed and accurate history, perform an appropriate physical examination, order, perform, and interpret appropriate diagnostic studies, delineate problems, develop management plans, and record and present data.

- Monitoring:** Implement patient management plans, record progress notes, and participate in the provision of continuity of care.
- Therapeutic:** Perform therapeutic procedures and manage or assist in the management of medical and surgical conditions, which may include assisting surgeons in the conduct of operations and taking initiative in performing evaluation and therapeutic procedures in response to life-threatening situations.
- Patient Education:** Counsel patients regarding issues of health care management to include compliance with prescribed therapeutic regimens, normal growth and development, family planning, and emotional problems of daily living.
- Referral:** Facilitate the referral of patients to other health care providers or agencies as appropriate.