



Technical Standards

Completion of a degree at the University of Bridgeport Physician Assistant Institute (“UBPAI”) signifies the graduate is prepared to practice as a physician assistant (“PA”). The Technical Standards, as distinguished from academic standards, refer to the physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for participation and completion of all aspects of the curriculum and for entry into the PA profession. These standards are required by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (“ARC-PA”) and are common to all programs.

In keeping with the philosophy and core values of the UBPAI, the highest priority is placed upon developing graduates who are competent, prepared, and possess skills of lifelong learning.

Additionally, the ability to meet the Technical Standards must be maintained throughout the student’s progress while enrolled in the UBPAI. Should a student perceive any issue with meeting the Technical Standards, they must notify the director of the program immediately.

The Technical Standards are not intended to deter any student who might be able to complete the requirements of the curriculum with reasonable accommodations. Requests from students or prospective students for reasonable accommodations should be directed to the Office of Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.bridgeport.edu/student-accessibility/>).

Each student or otherwise qualified individual with a disability must be able to meet the following Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodations:

Observation:

- Acquire information from written documents and to visualize information as presented in images from paper, film, slides or videos.
- Observe visual presentations in the classroom, lecture hall, and laboratory.
- Observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand, with or without standard medical instrumentation for completion of patient exams.
- Observe and interpret both verbal and nonverbal communications.
- Comprehend and immediately respond to auditory instructions or requests in all medical settings, including the operating room.
- Elicit information by use of senses (vision, touch, hearing, and smell) through procedures regularly required in physical examination, such as inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation in a consistent and accurate manner.
- Perceive pain, pressure, temperature, position, vibration, and movement that are important to the student’s ability to gather significant information needed to effectively evaluate patients.

Communication

- Speak and hear in order to elicit, process and exchange information with patients and other providers.
- Perceive and describe changes in mood, activity, posture, and nonverbal cues.

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- Possess English language skills, including grammar, spelling and vocabulary, to communicate effectively with patients, their families, and other practitioners in both written and oral settings.
- Possess the skills of sensitivity and confidentiality in patient communication.

Motor Skills

- Maintain consciousness and equilibrium; have sufficient levels of postural control, neuromuscular control, and eye-to-hand coordination.
- Perform gross and fine motor movements with sufficient coordination needed to carry out palpation, percussion, auscultation to elicit information on patient exam.
- Manipulate and handle equipment and instruments to perform diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests and emergency therapeutic procedures, including but not limited to airway management, placement of intravenous catheters, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and application of pressure to control bleeding and suturing of wounds.
- Have sufficient mobility and strength for both educational and patient care activities.
- Must have the physical and mental stamina to complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the training. This includes sitting, standing, and moving between classrooms, laboratories, and hospitals.

Cognitive ability:

- Possess problem solving ability and critical thinking skills.
- Collect, measure, organize, prioritize, analyze and efficiently assimilate data in a limited time frame.
- Apply information acquired during didactic activities to clinical settings.
- Measure, synthesize and comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships of structures according to standard medical care.
- Make decisions that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation and sound clinical judgment.
- Relate to patient in empathetic, mature, and sensitive ways.
- Read and comprehend medical literature and integrate knowledge into problem solving and patient care.

Behavior:

- Maintain calm and composed attitude in emergencies.
- Retain mental, physical and emotional integrity while functioning in educational and medical settings.
- Demonstrate compassion, motivation, integrity, flexibility and a consciousness of social values when interacting with diverse population of patients, their families and other practitioners.
- Accept criticism, modify behavior, and practice as needed.
- Consistently apply ethical standards in practice and education.
- Tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively and quickly under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties