Physician Assistant Program Technical Standards

The mission of St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is: “The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences commits to academic excellence, scholarship, and service to humanity through the discovery and application of biomedical knowledge. We facilitate and advance scholarship by offering innovative programs of study utilizing active learning approaches that are student-centered, outcomes-oriented, and that inspire lifelong learning. As compassionate health care professionals and scientists, we serve humanity through our dedication to excellence in health care and biomedical research. Building on a commitment to cultural diversity and benefiting from our metropolitan location and strategic alliances with leading health care institutions, we strive to serve as effective leaders, good citizens, and moral and ethical individuals. We commit ourselves to discovery, communication and application of biomedical knowledge as a critical component for the development of health care professionals and scientists. Through innovative basic, social and clinical research initiatives, we contribute to scientific knowledge, address contemporary health care issues and seek solutions to health care problems. Our mission embodies the principles of the University’s mission statement: to provide a quality education in an environment that is Catholic, Vincentian and metropolitan.”

Physician assistant students will be responsible for their own learning with guidance from the faculty, preceptors, administrators, and their peers. Students must consistently and accurately demonstrate both academic and technical abilities to ensure minimal competency and adequate progression throughout the curriculum. Technical standards, as distinguished from academic standards, refer to the minimum cognitive, professional, and behavioral abilities required for a student to satisfactorily complete of all essential aspects of the curriculum. To successfully progress in and ultimately complete the didactic, laboratory, and experiential components of the Physician Assistant program, students must understand these qualifications. All students will be required to read and sign the following minimum technical standards document to indicate they understand these qualifications. The signed document will be kept as a permanent part of the student’s record.

Minimum Technical Standards for Admission and Continuance

Physician Assistant students are required to perform efficiently in a variety of learning and clinical settings and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate taxing workloads and must be able to adapt to changing environments. All candidates for the Physician Assistant Program must possess the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data, often in the face of uncertainties which are inherent in clinical scenarios. In order to enable them to carry out all activities required in physician assistant education and to meet the demands of total patient care, candidates must possess capabilities and skills in five areas*.

1. Observation - Candidates must have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the outpatient setting, and at the patient’s bedside. Sensory skills adequate to perform a physical examination are required. These sensory skills must be adequate to elicit information through procedures regularly required in physical examination, such as general inspection, visual examination, and identification of specific findings.

2. Communication - Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in both the academic and health care settings. Candidates must show evidence of effective written and verbal communication skills so as to effectively and efficiently communicate with patients and all members of the health care team. Candidates and students should be able to elicit information, examine patients, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.

3. Motor - Candidates must have sufficient motor function to participate in basic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures (e.g. palpation, percussion, auscultation). A candidate should have motor function sufficient to execute movements required to provide general care and emergency treatment.
to patients. Such skills require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and sensation. Physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are also required.

4. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative abilities** - These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physician assistants, requires all of these intellectual abilities. The candidate should also be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and the spatial relationships of structures. Candidates must be able to read and comprehend the medical literature. In order to complete the physician assistant program, students are required to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them together in medical problem-solving and patient care.

5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes** - Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. The development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and members of the health care team is essential. The ability to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice, flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills and concern for others are all required. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physical and emotional stress and continue to function effectively.

*these activities may be performed by the student with reasonable accommodation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requires that qualified individuals with a disability shall not, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities or be subjected to discrimination. The term “qualified individual with a disability” refers to an individual, who with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or for participation in programs or activities. St. John’s University complies with the Americans with Disability Act. St. John’s PA Education Program, its Admissions Committee and its Academic Standings and Promotions Committee will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. In carrying out their functions, the program’s committees will be guided by the technical standards set forth in this proposal as standards necessary for admissions, continuance and successful completion of the program. This information is used in conjunction with policies and procedures as delineated in the Student Guidelines and the Clinical Guidelines.

The student must be able to demonstrate the ability to handle situations appropriately that may be physically, emotionally, or intellectually stressful, and must display appropriate coping responses. The student must appropriately adapt and be able to accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism in a mature and acceptable and professional manner. The student must display compassion and concern for others in accordance with the Mission of St. John’s University and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

I have read and fully understand the above described technical standards.

Name (Please print) ____________________________________________________________________________

Date of Birth _____________________  St. John’s ID number (if known) X ___________________________

Signature _______________________________________________________  Date ____________________