

THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at SAN ANTONIO
SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT of PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Technical Standards for Physician Assistant Students

Purpose: This description defines the capabilities that are necessary for an individual to successfully complete the physician assistant curricula.

Typical Mental Demands: Requires the ability to process, retain, comprehend, integrate, analyze, synthesize, and apply a large volume of data related to the art and science of medicine, including legal, ethical, and moral concepts. Requires long hours in class, laboratory, clinical, and self-directed study situations and environments. Requires appropriate and timely responses to constructive faculty feedback. Requires effective written and verbal communication skills. Requires participation in educational activities that include tests, examinations, demonstrations, simulations, presentations, written communication skills, frequent and exacting evaluations, etc.

Typical Physical Demands: Requires full range of body motion including assisting patient movement, manual and finger dexterity and eye-hand coordination. Requires frequent and prolonged patient interactions that include standing and walking for extended hospital/clinic visits. Classroom and laboratory experiences may require sitting for long periods. Requires normal visual and hearing acuity. Requires exposures to communicable diseases and body fluids. Requires working in physically and mentally stressful situations with long and irregular hours.

Typical Working Conditions: Frequent exposure to communicable diseases, toxic substances, ionizing radiation, medicinal preparations, hostile individuals, and other conditions common to the medical and surgical environments. Must interact with diverse patient populations of all ages with a range of acute and chronic medical and surgical conditions.

Student Performance Requirements:

1. Assignment to medical, surgical, pediatric, obstetric/gynecologic, in-patient and outpatient settings.
2. Assignment to on-campus and off-campus sites, including out of town locations.
3. Attendance and participation in-patient care activities.
4. Attendance and participation in didactic and clinical education and training.
5. Patient assessment and evaluation.
6. Gathering patient data and reporting.
7. Participation in invasive and non-invasive procedures.
8. Participation in patient education.
9. Participation in pre-, intra-, and post-operative activities.
10. Participation in emergency care.
11. Development of medical ethics and understanding medical-legal concepts.

12. Long and irregular hours.
13. Development of a service orientation to career.
14. Participation in professional organizations.
15. Development and exhibition of professional ethical demeanor.
16. Completion of demanding didactic and clinical evaluations, examinations, etc.
17. Performance to the level determined and required by the faculty.
18. Other as assigned or required.

Effective: August 21, 2000

Revised: N/A