



Ursuline College Physician Assistant Program: Core Competencies

The Ursuline College Physician Assistant Program Core Competencies represent the clinical reasoning, problem-solving, clinical and technical skills, interpersonal and communication skills, professional and ethical behaviors, and interprofessional collaboration, that each student must demonstrate to successfully complete the program

The Core Competencies are program specific and were created with consideration of the programs mission and the Cross-Org Competencies Review Task Force consisting of National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the American Academy of PAs (AAPA), and the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) which defines core competencies for the practicing physician assistant.

Competencies:

1. Clinical Reasoning, Problem Solving, Clinical and Technical Skills for Practice

1.0 Possess knowledge of the principles of basic and clinical sciences including anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and genetics

1.1 Utilize critical thinking and medical decision-making strategies in all aspects of patient care

1.2 Apply medical knowledge of organ systems including etiology, incidence, risk factors, clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, and treatment strategies to effectively manage a patient across the life span

1.3 Perform effective, patient-centered interviewing to obtain a medical history, considering cultural awareness and social determinants

1.4 Perform an appropriate physical examination for comprehensive and problem-focused patient encounters

1.5 Select, interpret, and apply data obtained from diagnostic, laboratory, and imaging studies to assist in the accurate diagnosis and management of health conditions, with consideration for patient financial implications

1.6 Evaluate information obtained from history and physical examination findings to develop a primary working diagnosis and differential diagnosis for acute, chronic, and emergent health conditions

- 1.7 Perform safe and effective clinical and technical skills considered essential for the entry level PA in the inpatient, outpatient, pre-, intra-, and post-operative settings
- 1.8 Develop health management strategies, including patient education, that promote and encourage shared decision-making across the lifespan
- 1.9 Apply knowledge of pharmaceutical agents including indications, contraindications, dosing, side effects, drug interactions and costs to patients to the formulation of treatment plans for acute, chronic, and emergent conditions
- 1.10 Accurately and adequately document medical information for clinical, legal, quality, and financial purposes in a timely and effective manner

2. Interpersonal, Interprofessional, and Communication Skills

- 2.0 Demonstrate effective communication skills with patients and families by utilizing skills that promote compassion, sensitivity, and mutual respect
- 2.1 Establish supportive interprofessional working relationships and interact effectively with members of the healthcare team to optimize safe, effective patient-centered care
- 2.2 Recognize and understand the role of the physician assistant and the limitations inherent to that role, while embracing the collaborative physician/physician assistant relationship
- 2.3 Present an oral report of patient information to collaborating physicians and other members of the healthcare team in a clear, concise, and effective manner

3. Patient-Centered Care

- 3.0 Provide patient-centered care with consideration for cultural awareness and social determinants of health across the lifespan
- 3.1 Appropriately foster patient advocacy in the health care setting
- 3.2 Utilize patient safety strategies to reduce medical errors and practice quality improvement in medical care
- 3.3 Foster preventive care including age-appropriate screening, immunization recommendations, referrals, and behavioral modifications

4. Practice and Professionalism

- 4.0 Embrace professionalism in all aspects of clinical practice incorporating accountability, confidentiality, and selflessness

- 4.1 Demonstrate professionalism through awareness of diversity in all forms including but not limited to sex, gender, identity, age, culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, and abilities as it relates to patient-centered care
- 4.2 Demonstrate an understanding of medical ethics and the legal aspects of healthcare
- 4.3 Incorporate current clinical guidelines into the practice of evidence-based medicine
- 4.4 Analyze the use and allocation of resources to ensure the practice of safe and cost-effective healthcare while maintaining the quality of care
- 4.5 Utilize the concepts of public health and population medicine to improve the quality of patient care