



WUDPA Technical Standards (updated 7/7/2023) A3.13e

WUDPA believes a diverse class supports greater learning, enhances student experiences, prepares PAs to work with and care for individuals from many backgrounds and cultures, and encourages self-reflection and growth.

WUDPA, in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and its amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other disability rights legislation, does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. Candidates/students must meet the academic standards and, with or without reasonable accommodation, meet the program's technical standards to be eligible to matriculate.

Candidates/students with disabilities are encouraged to contact [Disability Support Services](#) early in the application process to confidentially discuss potential accommodations needed to meet the technical standards below. Accommodations are never retroactive; requests should be timely as some may need time and resources to be able to implement.

The Department of PA Studies uses independent sites for supervised clinical practical experiences (SCPE), these sites may or may not be able to offer reasonable accommodations made available by the University. Additionally, fulfillment of programmatic requirements does not guarantee a graduate will be able to fulfill technical standards for employment or taking the PANCE.

Technical Standards

Observation and Sensory Integration

The student must:

- Be able to acquire and synthesize information in all didactic and clinical settings through various sources including, but not limited to, in-person and virtual presentations, written material, visual media, and small groups.
- Gather essential and accurate information about patients through history-taking, physical examination, use of laboratory data, imaging, and other methods.

Communication

The student must:

- Be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, at a level consistent with graduate-level work, through the use of proper English grammar, spelling, and vocabulary to professionally communicate efficiently and effectively with patients, families, members of the healthcare team, and completion of course assignments.
- Develop and maintain interprofessional working relationships as a healthcare team member.
- Communicate clearly and effectively with patients and families considering health literacy, differences in culture, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, disability, and religious beliefs.

Motor Coordination and Function

The student must:

- Perform routine physical examinations and diagnostic maneuvers (e.g. auscultate, palpate, inspection, physically maneuver patients, and utilize diagnostic equipment). Must provide general care and emergency treatment for patients and respond to emergency situations in a timely manner.
- Must be able to meet applicable safety standards for the setting and follow universal precautions procedures.

Intellectual/Conceptual Abilities

The student must:

- Be able to think critically and with sound judgment in order to understand, assess, and solve complex clinical problems. This includes collecting, organizing, prioritizing, reasoning, analyzing, integrating, learning, and retaining information, often in a limited time frame.
- Be able to apply basic principles of the scientific method in reading and interpreting professional literature, integrate data, and develop appropriate differential diagnoses.
- Effectively participate in individual, small-group, and lecture learning modalities in the classroom, clinical, and community settings.
- Learn, participate, collaborate, and contribute as part of a team.
- Interpret causal connections and make accurate, fact-based conclusions based on available data and information.
- Formulate hypotheses and investigate potential answers and outcomes; and reach appropriate and accurate conclusions.

Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Abilities

The student must:

- Function effectively under high stress, and be adaptive to change in both the classroom and clinic setting. Maintain professionalism during times of uncertainty. Proactively make use of available resources to help maintain both physical and mental health.
- Exercise good judgment and integrity in educational and professional settings.
- Accept and apply feedback in both didactic and clinical settings.
- Understand, and function within the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine.
- Behave in a manner fitting the ethical and moral behavior appropriate for the PA profession in both educational and professional settings.

Some components adapted from Keza L, Kirschner, K, Clinchot D, Laird-Metke E, Zazove P, Curry R. (2019) Leading practices and future directions for technical standards in medical education. Academic Medicine. 94:520-527. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000002517