

## **GRADUATE COMPETENCIES**

The Nova Southeastern University Physician Assistant Program – Fort Lauderdale is dedicated to producing competent physician assistants that will provide care for the general public including those in underserved communities and thereby promote the physician assistant profession.

Professional competencies for physician assistants include the effective and appropriate application of medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and practice-based learning and improvement.

Therefore, upon completion of the Program, the graduate will demonstrate the following competencies:

### **Medical Knowledge & Patient Care**

1. Understand etiologies, risk factors, and epidemiology for medical conditions
2. Recognize signs and symptoms of medical conditions
3. Understand and interpret appropriate diagnostic studies
4. Manage general medical and surgical conditions including pharmacologic and other treatment modalities
5. Complete an appropriate medical history and physical examination
6. Understand and apply interventions for prevention of disease and health promotion

#### **Demonstrated by:**

Successful completion of all didactic and clinical coursework and review of preceptor feedback during supervised clinical practice experiences.

### **Interpersonal & Communication Skills**

1. Use effective communication skills to elicit and provide information.
2. Work effectively with physicians and other health care professionals as a member of a health care team.
3. Accurately and adequately document information regarding care for medical, legal, quality and financial purposes.

#### **Demonstrated by:**

Successful completion of Physical Diagnosis course series, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention course, and review of preceptor feedback during supervised clinical practice experiences.

## **Professionalism**

1. Demonstrate respect, compassion and integrity.
2. Demonstrate commitment to ethical principles such as confidentiality, informed consent and business practices.
3. Maintain professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers
4. Show sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, literacy and abilities

### **Demonstrated by:**

Ongoing evaluation of professional behavior by faculty, and preceptor feedback during supervised clinical practice experiences.

## **Practice-based Learning & Improvement**

1. Analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities.
2. Locate, appraise, and integrate evidence from scientific studies related to patients' health
3. Utilize information technology to manage information, access medical information and support education

### **Demonstrated by:**

Successful completion of Evaluation of the Medical Literature, completion of the graduate project, and review of preceptor feedback during supervised clinical practice experiences.

## **Technical Procedures**

Demonstrate indications, contraindications and perform the following technical skills:

1. Head to Toe Physical Examination
2. Arterial puncture
3. Venipuncture
4. Intravenous catheterization
5. Injections (IM, SC, ID)
6. Airway Management (oral airway placement, endotracheal and nasotracheal intubation)

7. Urinary catheterization
8. Nasogastric catheterization
9. Lumbar puncture
10. Splinting & Casting
11. Suturing wounds
12. Gowning & Gloving

Demonstrated by:

Successful completion of Surgical Skills and Procedures Course, Physical Diagnosis course series, and review of clinical year procedure logs.